

TUC line may harden on registration

From JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent: Blackpool, Sunday

Mr Vic Feather will tell the TUC's one hundred and third congress tomorrow that for the first time the affiliated membership exceeds 10 million.

But this is almost the only cheering news delegates will hear all week, for splits over registration under the Industrial Relations Act, the Common Market, and a future incomes policy makes the TUC now as deeply divided as at any time in its history.

On registration, Lord Cooper, the TUC chairman, could even face attempts to unseat him because of his avowed opposition to the left-wing policy of boycotting the registrar.

Today, the draughtsmen's delegation heard suggestions that they should take the initiative in the campaign against Lord Cooper but decided against it. Other Left-wing delegates, however, are known to be stirring up similar thoughts. Certainly, Lord Cooper can expect a rough reception for his presidential address tomorrow.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union are backing a motion asking conference to "instruct" all unions not to register, and there now seems a real possibility that it could be passed.

This follows the decision of the National Union of Mine-workers to switch from support of the TUC's present policy of "strong advice" against registration to the tougher line of Messrs Jones and Scanlon, if their motion is passed it could lead eventually to the creation of a separate white-collar TUC as a number of big unions walked out rather than accept political dictation from the Left.

On the Common Market, there is no doubt that a motion opposing entry on current terms will be carried by a substantial majority, given the fact that the TUC has been hiding the £40,000 member National and Local Government Officers' Association from committing its votes for Europe.

Mr Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary, tonight lashed out at the TUC's "pro-European" line, saying it was "a betrayal of the interests of the working class". He said the TUC was "a puppet of the bourgeoisie" and "a tool of the capitalist class".

Chipo sets a trend

From STANLEY UYS

Cape Town, September 5

A South African school for white children has taken the unprecedented step of admitting a black pupil.

The pupil is Chipo, aged 6, daughter of Mr Joe Kachingwe, the newly appointed Malawi Ambassador to South Africa. Mr Kachingwe is the first black ambassador to be accredited to this country.

Chipo has been enrolled at the Loreto convent in Pretoria, a private Catholic school. If she had been enrolled at a Government school, white parents would probably have objected. As it is, some Loreto parents are reported to be upset over the school's admission, although the school has received no complaints yet.

Loreto already has a few Japanese and Chinese children, but Chipo is its first black pupil. No other white school in the country has a black pupil. Mr and Mrs Kachingwe have two other children but they are not yet of school age.

Rat-race claims its victims

By ANTHONY TUCKER

Almost 15 per cent of all medical admissions to hospital in Cambridge last year were attempted suicides.

Professor I. H. Mills told a medical conference in Oxford that attempted suicide in the city had increased by two and a half times since 1961. Studies in several cities showed that it had entered a phase of pressure of population and competition whose social consequences were extremely serious, he said.

Professor Mills, of Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, said the trend in Cambridge far exceeded the rate of growth in population. Data on attempted suicides in Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Oxford, as well as Cambridge, confirmed that a sharp increase began in this country about 1960.

In Cambridge the statistics showed that, contrary to widespread belief, the rate of attempted suicides among

students was lower than that of the population of the city as a whole. The malaise was general not specific.

Professor Mills said the fact that the rate of successful suicides had gone down was highly misleading. It reflected such things as improvement in treatment, success of intensive care units, and changes in the methods used by those attempting suicide. It was the continuing and rapid upward trend in the numbers of those who attempted self destruction which demanded urgent attention, he added.

About experiments on animals, Professor Mills said it was not over-crowding which led to bizarre and self-destructive behaviour, but the pressure of competition. Advanced societies driven by the increasing demands of economic expansion, greater productivity, more

advanced educational requirements, and other synthetic coercive forces of the "rat race" were revealing symptoms of "stress that confirmed the fact that present policies were inappropriate."

After the conference, Professor Mills said the Government had to realise that the rate of human breakdown was rising extremely rapidly—caused by policies which drove inflexibly towards expansion, higher productivity, and more individual efficiency.

We needed to plan with human tolerance in mind, which meant accepting some inefficiency. Policies needed to be directed towards goals which were more economically flexible, so as to reduce competition and eliminate the appalling side effects of pressure, such as unemployment and the "depressed areas."



Parental pride... the Queen congratulates Princess Anne who won the European Individual Championship at the Burghley Horse Trials yesterday. 37.8 points in front of the British team member Debbie West. Equestrian events, page 16

Navy secrets charge

A NAVY sub-lieutenant, David James Bingham (21), is to appear at Portsmouth magistrates court today charged under the Official Secrets Acts. The Ministry of Defence said the arrest followed investigation in the Portsmouth area.

Left-wingers are pointing out that much of the former increase stems from the aggressive recruiting policies of Mr Clive Jenkins's Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, while the latter may be the aftermath of last autumn's local government "dirty jobs" strikes. So it seems that militancy still pays in terms of membership gains.

The railways, too, show an increase — of 12,679 members — which is a reversal of the downward trend in recent years. But the National Union of Railwaymen should not take much consolation for this. It stems from the recent introduction of the close shop, which — within a matter of months — will be outlawed under the Industrial Relations Act.

£2M air sales

AIRCRAFT orders worth more than £2 millions were placed during the five-day light aviation show at Cranfield aerodrome, Bedfordshire. The show finished yesterday. Nearly 4,000 people visited it.

Four held

FOUR young relief workers, including three Britons, were arrested by troops and taken away after crossing into East Pakistan from India. It was stated in London yesterday. The four were for Omega, an organisation supplying food to East Pakistan. Report, page 3.

Soccer talks

DEREK DOUGAN, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, has called for an urgent meeting between the management committee and other football bodies to discuss the new law-enforcement policy by referees.

Albert Barham, page 16

TV, radio-2

Overseas 2.3 Business 10.11
Home 4.5 X-waves 14.17
Entertainment 6 Sport 15-17
Arts 6 Motoring 15
Women 7

Classified—14

IRA Provisionals' plan for peace

The Provisional branch of Irish Republican Army last night issued a five-point plan to Mr Heath to "end the agony of our people."

The leadership of the Republican movement, "mindful of the terrible plight of the people in occupied Ireland, who for two years have suffered death, injury, and imprisonment at the hands of British forces operating in Ireland," the statement said, "feel that

every effort should be made to end the agony of our people. Accordingly we submit the following interim proposals to the British Government and the other interested parties.

"Public acceptance of these proposals would, we believe, bring immediate peace to a long-suffering people and merit the gratitude of the British and Irish peoples.

1. An immediate cessation to the British forces' campaign of

violence against the Irish people;

2. Abolition of the Stormont Parliament;

3. A guarantee of non-interference with a free election to establish a regional Parliament for the historic Province of Ulster as a first step towards a new governmental structure for the 32 counties;

4. Immediate release of all Irish political prisoners, tried and untied, in England and Ireland;

5. A guarantee of compensation for all those who suffered as a result of direct and indirect British violence."

The statement added: "Acceptance of the above proposals by midnight on Wednesday, September 9, would be reciprocated on the part of the IRA by a suspension of military operations."

"Rejection of the proposals will leave the IRA with no option but to intensify its campaign of resistance to British military violence in Ireland."

The statement was signed by P. O'Neill, secretary of the Republican Publicity Bureau.

The proposals were rejected by an Ulster Government spokesman, who said: "We do not do deals with murderers or

Turn to back page, col. 3

Turn to back page, col. 3

Heath prepares for Lynch talks

By FRANCIS BOYD, Political Correspondent

Mr Lynch and Mr Heath will decide at the end of today's talks whether to meet again tomorrow. Mr Lynch will return from Chequers to spend the night at the Irish Embassy, as he wishes to restrict the meeting to business.

Whitehall was yesterday still discussing any likelihood of major decisions coming from the meeting. Mr Heath will talk about anything except changing the constitutional position of Northern Ireland, but he will not support Mr Lynch's suggestion of a UN force on the border, on the ground that it might raise more problems than it would settle.

Mr Heath conferred at Chequers yesterday with Mr Maudling, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, and Lord Eamonn (who represented the Ministry of Defence) to prepare for today's talks.

Mr Maudling earlier rebuked Mr Wilson in a BBC radio interview, for a statement at the

weekend in which he suggested that the Government was accepting alliance with a single Ulster faction.

Mr Lynch has taken a risk, in terms of Republican politics, in agreeing to meet Mr Heath. He has a left-wing to bear in mind—an element which operates in Fionna Fail much as the "tribune" group does in the Labour Party.

This is one reason why Mr Lynch would resist fiercely any attempt by Mr Heath to saddle his Government with responsibility for checking the IRA's activities in Northern Ireland. All three parties in the Dail—Labour and Fine Gael are the violence — are opposed to violence as a political instrument, and therefore, would like to see an agreed settlement in Northern Ireland whatever the party risks.

Mr Lynch's main task today is to discover if Mr Heath will move in a direction acceptable to Fionna Fail. Recent inquiries among the three parties in the Republic showed that they all mistrusted the ability of the Faulkner Government to administer the reforms in a way that would satisfy the minority. Hence the pressure from Mr Lynch and others for a new Administration in Ulster.

The three parties also fear that internment has alienated moderate opinion in Northern Ireland. (Mr Maudling, in his BBC broadcast, claimed that the reforms would secure full rights for all, and defended internment as essential.)

But Fine Gael and the Republican Labour Party recognise that political stability must

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Expelled men spied, claims Kaunda

By DAVID MARTIN

Lusaka, September 5. Efforts are being made to stave off criticism of President Kaunda and his Government over the expulsion of Rhodesians in July of freedom fighters from the Zimbabwe African People's Union.

African diplomats here have received an explanation from officials of the Liberation Committee while in Rhodesia, the names, charges, evidence, and sentences against the men expelled are being kept secret.

President Kaunda admitted only a few days ago that 51 people had been sent to Rhodesia although the figure from Salisbury is 129. He said they were not freedom fighters but were members of South African governments. "These are the names of the men," he said.

"Even accepting that some were spies for the Rhodesians, the decision to send them to Rhodesia is surprising. Having been members of South African governments, they had inside knowledge of other guerrillas and armaments, and it would not have been better to have them in the country."

The Zambians counter this argument by saying the intelligence organisations of white southern African governments already have such information.

It is common knowledge that liberation movements are infiltrated by members of the Zambian Government is questionable.

Reports from Salisbury have indicated that the men may have been expelled because of links with Mr. Kenneth Dabwala, a member of the Zambian Parliament and a recent university lecturer in Rhodesia.

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New Premier of Yemen resigns

By ANTHONY McDERMOTT

been agreed that General al Amri should leave the country until the tension had subsided. General al Amri, who has considerable following within the army and several tribes, then left the country and the authorities in Sana'a seized upon his absence to dismiss him.

His dismissal ends for the moment the Iranian al Amri combination which has always served Yemen well since President Salal was deposed in 1967. Al Amri, regarded as Yemen's "strong man," has a formidable record as a courageous and tough soldier. He had been Prime Minister three times before and had been commander-in-chief of the armed forces since 1965.

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Waiting mood in monetary crisis

From HELLA PICK: Paris, September 5

Stalemate is complete in the international monetary crisis. Everyone is waiting for somebody else to move. Although there is agreement on the need to end the stalemate, nobody dares to set a target date. The hope is that as a first move, agreement on new currency rates can be reached before the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund at the end of the month. But optimism about even that is limited.

Monetary experts from the Group of 10 who had been meeting here to prepare for the Finance Ministers' talks in London 10 days' time, do not even see the outlines of an acceptable solution. The big question is whether this can be settled by the financial wizards, or whether the problem has assumed major political dimensions involving America's relations with Japan, with Canada and with its European allies.

The crisis affects trade and defence, and not just a realignment of currencies or reform of the international monetary system. It is a serious effort to come to grips with the situation, America's relations with its allies are bound to deteriorate.

There is no doubt that the IMF meeting will offer an unprecedented spectacle of attacks on the United States from many quarters, especially from the less developed countries who feel that they are being victimised by the "rich man's club."

Mr. Volcker, the United States Under-Secretary of the Treasury, made it quite clear at the Group of 10 meeting that the US is looking for a settlement which covers not only monetary issues, but trade problems and an agreement on a wider spread in sharing defence costs. The ostensible aim is to achieve a settlement that will ensure the US a positive balance of payments in place of the present deficit.

But right up to the end, Mr. Volcker refused to go beyond generalities and his plea for an understanding of America's problems. The US thesis is still that it is in the interest of the free world to clip put the US economy back on a sound footing. The Administration, he argued, has already acted on the domestic front. It is up to America's partners to deal with the international aspects.

The US is not willing to make any concessions on that front — it expects its partners to revalue against the dollar. Washington refuses even to discuss an increase in the price of gold against the dollar, thus devaluing the dollar by even a few points. Mr. Volcker, at his press conference here yesterday, confirmed this when he said, "We are not looking for any change in the dollar value of gold."

Although the Americans are less adamant about the 10 per cent import surcharge, they say it is only a "temporary measure" they are refusing to name the conditions under which they would be prepared to remove it.

Other members of the Group of 10 are united only in insisting that the United States must make concessions. It must yield, they say, on the gold price as part of any realignment of currencies. They believe this to be essential to preserve the existing level of gold backing for currencies that the United States and its trading allies are also unanimous in insisting that

are in disarray. It is still far from certain whether they will manage to agree on a formula for regulating monetary transactions within the Community when their Finance Ministers meet next week.

Such an agreement would not go far towards creating a common front on the wider issues raised by the US. The Community would still be far short of agreement on international monetary reform, on the whole issue of its trade relations with the US, and on defence burden sharing.

Britain is in a serious dilemma. It is obviously torn between loyalty to the United States and to a disunited EEC. Its exports to the US are affected by the surcharge, and would be further affected by a permanent revaluation of sterling against the dollar.

On the other hand, it is secretly sympathetic to the US challenge to the Community's common agricultural policy. Above all, Britain now has a politically painful opportunity to use its world-wide realignment of currencies to defend Japan, for example, when that is finally agreed — to see in the crisis a threat to its position in Asia, and to its alliance with the US, not to mention a threat to Japan's "economic miracle."

France quite plainly treats the whole crisis as a political issue. It is the burden of entry costs the EEC countries as a whole was beyond Britain's capacity.

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Saboteurs used girl tourists

Jerusalem, September 5

The Israeli airline El Al imposed strict security precautions on all flights today after Arab guerrillas had on two occasions attempted to blow up planes in the air by tricking girl tourists into taking suitcases on board containing explosives.

The Cabinet heard detailed reports on the two unsuccessful attempts at its regular weekly meeting today.

An official announcement last night said only that unsuspecting passengers had been used to plant the explosives, but gave no other details. This morning, however, officials revealed that two girls, one Dutch and one Peruvian, were each approached by an agent of an Arab guerrilla organisation in a European capital, which they did not name. The girls, neither of whom was identified, were told that they were to take one of their suitcases to Israel last week on separate El Al flights.

One unconfirmed report said the Dutch girl was befriended by a dark haired, bearded youth as she was buying a ticket to Israel at a European travel agency. They spent five days together and the youth then left saying he would travel to Israel with her. He asked her to take one of his suitcases because he had an excess weight of luggage.

The report said the girl took the suitcase on to the plane, but the youth failed to turn up for the flight. She mentioned the extra suitcase to a fellow passenger, a young Israeli, who advised her to tell security guards aboard the plane. They found the explosives hidden in the suitcase's false bottom.

The Peruvian girl, a tourist, was reported to have said she met an Arab youth before flying to Israel. He accompanied her to the airport, where she found he had switched one of her suitcases. She immediately informed a security guard.

The evening newspaper "Maariv" said the detonating devices found in the cases were intended to blow up the air liners in mid-air.

Today El Al intensified security precautions at all points on its flight schedule. Not only hand luggage but all other baggage was being checked, and passengers were being asked to sign a form declaring that they had not accepted luggage that did not belong to them and that they were aware of the contents of their baggage.

This is the second time in five months that Israel has reported cases of tourists being implicated in Arab guerrilla sabotage attempts.

With elaborate guidance from Washington, Hollywood and the San Clemente White House, the folks in Richard Nixon's "happy city" are planning a coronation with a cast of thousands just one year from now.

The extravaganza will feature 1,346 Republican delegates throughout the country, 1,346 alternate delegates, more than 700 reporters, photographers and broadcasters, and some 10,000 additional political operatives, aides, spouses and hangers-on who will invade this city next August 21 for the Republican National Convention.

The purpose of the festival, which will be televised coast-to-coast, is to nominate the Grand Old Party's ticket for the 1972 Presidential election. At this point there is considerable suspense about the identity of the number two player, but no one here has any doubt about the identity of the star of the show. "San Diego has been informally told to prepare for a three-day, unopposed convention, and the planning is well under way."

Bill Carruthers, a freelance Hollywood producer who also serves as a White House television adviser, is one of the few visitors to the stage setting at the 15,000-seat international sports arena, where the convention will be held, and the 50,000-

Honecker hails Berlin terms

By our Foreign Staff

In his first public comment on the Berlin agreement here, Herr Honecker, the East German Communist leader, has said the Western Powers have for the first time, talked of the German Democratic Republic as a sovereign State. "We attach particular importance to this," he added.

In a long interview transmitted by radio and television and published in yesterday's papers, Herr Honecker said the Western Powers' declarations on the GDR were binding in international law. The GDR's position in international law was thereby undoubtedly strengthened.

The East German leader also stressed that the Western Powers had declared that West Berlin was not a constituent part of the Federal Republic. East Berlin, which has for 20 years been the capital of the GDR, was not an object of the Berlin agreement which only concerned the Western sectors of the city.

Herr Honecker emphasised that the Eastern side was anxious to move on to the ratification of the Warsaw and Moscow treaties between Bonn and Poland, and Bonn and the Soviet Union. The Berlin agreement created "favourable conditions" for the ratification of these treaties. It also improved the climate for a European security conference.

Herr Honecker expressed himself "very satisfied" with the consultations which the Soviet Union had had with the GDR while the Berlin negotiations were going on. He began the interview by thanking the Russians for helping to bring the

the region of Ottawa, the federal capital which lies in Ontario but on the Quebec border.

The units vary in size from a two-man postal station, where both the postmaster and his assistant are French-Canadians who have always spoken French to each other, up to much bigger sections in the departments of finance and commerce.

According to official statistics, 75 per cent of 29,000 employees affected are either French-Canadian or fluent in French. English-speaking Canadian civil servants will be given language courses and they will be allowed to do their written work in English at the beginning.

More than 300 of the departments are in the mainly French-speaking province of Quebec and another 100 are in

who are reluctant to switch working languages will be "urged at least to give it a fair try," according to an official statement.

The civil servants' union — the Public Service Alliance, which represents about 140,000 Federal employees — said that it will watch the experiment closely to make sure that no one's job prospects suffer.

The union had earlier asked for the scheme to be delayed until after the census for 1971 had been published. Canadian French-language areas could be chosen more accurately.

At the end of the year, the work of each department is to be reviewed with the possibility that some units may switch back to English or bilingual usage if too many problems have been created.

Reuter.

there are still two schools of thought about it here.

One group, which is said to be the majority, feels that San Diego's three days of publicity will be one great commercial for the city's charms and a profitable investment in its future. The other group, including a mixture of old-line San Diegans and environmentalist newcomers, want to keep sunny San Diego to themselves. Three of the major candidates for mayor in next month's election approve of the convention; the other two (both Republicans) oppose it.

In this conservative city, there is some concern about the fate of Spiro T. Agnew and the identity of Mr. Nixon's running mate next time. Ron Fuller, the executive director of the host committee, is a former Agnew aide and many of the local folk admire the Vice-President. However, few seem to think it would cause a convention-time problem here if Mr. Nixon should shelve Agnew for another running mate, as I believe he will.

Suspense over the Vice-Presidency is probably the only thing that could keep the San Diego convention from being a dull festival next August. And the Vice-Presidency appears to be the one convention detail for which San Diego has not yet been given a working plan. — Washington Post.

Pakistan relief team held

From MARTIN WOOLACOTT

Calcutta, September 5. Four persistent members of the Operation Omega team, which two weeks ago made an unsuccessful attempt to enter East Bengal and distribute relief today crossed the border and may have been arrested.

The group, two men and two women, walked over the border at Petropoli along the main road to Jessore, carrying "tokens" relief supplies in their rucksacks and telling reporters that they were once again aiming at a "non-violent direct action."

They were last seen — through field-glasses from an Indian Army position — being escorted out of sight up the road by nine Pakistani soldiers, including three officers. They had spent over an hour in conversation or argument with the soldiers before this happened.

The four, Christine Pratt, aged 32, Joyce Kenwell, 24, Ben Crow, 24, of Welwyn Garden City, and Dan Due, 26, of San Francisco, had gone in absolutely determined not to be fobbed off as they said they were last time, with talk and tea. On that occasion the whole affair ended in their being dumped back on the border. The strong impression today was that they hoped to provoke arrest, particularly as they were threatened with being brought before the courts on their previous trip.

Roger Moody, a member of the Omega group who stayed in Calcutta, said: "They were determined not to be moved. We can only presume they are under arrest."

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US dollar 'no longer decisive'

Rome, September 5

West Germany's Economics Minister, Professor Schiller, said here today that the dollar was no longer decisive in the world's economy as it had been in the past. He was speaking to reporters after two days of talks with Italian leaders.

The dollar will still be very important but it will no longer be the decisive currency that it has been in the past, the Minister said.

He denied that the mark might become a world standard currency. "Not even remotely do we think that the German mark might become a standard such as sterling has been and as the dollar is now. We do not want to create a 'mark zone' because that could be a fatal mistake."

Professor Schiller said that a new system of realigned exchange rates should be more flexible and adaptable than in the past. He thought an Italian proposal for a 3 per cent fluctuation on each side of parity had a future.

The Minister said that under a more realistic monetary system, which he hoped reform would lead to, there would no longer be one dominating currency.

Mr. Volcker, the US Under-Secretary to the Treasury, met the Italian Treasury Minister, Signor Ferrari-Aggradi, for an exchange of views here today. Mr. Volcker is visiting Europe on a mission to discuss the economic measures announced by President Nixon last month.

— UPI and Reuter.

100 pilgrims drowned

One hundred Pakistani Moslems were killed when their motor launch hit a rock and sank in the Persian Gulf early yesterday. They were on a pilgrimage.

100 pilgrims drowned

100 pilgrims drowned

100 pilgrims drowned

100 pilgrims drowned

100 pilgrims drowned

100 pilgrims drowned

enough free

Washington

Department of State

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon

Jews 'lose' papers

By JOHN WINDSOR

At least 51 per cent of the documents sent to the State Department to enable them to issue visas to Jews have been lost or destroyed. The State Department has been asked to issue visas to Jews who have been denied them because of the loss of their papers.

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Dennis Johnson looks at the Widnes byelection

WIDNES means "wide-ness," which is what the Vikings called it when they sailed up the Mersey from Ireland and founded the promontory on which it stands. Only those responsible for the subsequent shrivelling of its horizon could have invented such a mean contraction as "Widnes," the name of the place, by and large, who created the "Dutton Alps" (a pile of chemical waste) and the "Blue Lagoon" (sulphate of copper diluted in stagnant water).

These are the least landmarks to which jettisoned Widnesians have become accustomed, in the vaguely wry and helpless fashion adopted by human beings when faced with a permanent discomfort. The Labour candidate in the Widnes byelection, Mr. Gordon Oakes, thinks that the constituents have put up with it long enough. He has about 100 names on a list of those who have been injured to these bad conditions, and this is a terrible thing.

"People say, 'Where there's muck there's money,' but in fact where there's muck there's money wasted. Controlling pollution effectively will itself mean spending a lot of money and it will need international action, because you can't enforce restrictions on a British firm while letting a German competitor get away with it."

Of course, the Mersey was a river for a long time after the Vikings and before nineteenth-century Lancashire hit on the idea of using it as a convenience. Eels, caught in what Mr. Oakes calls the "pellucid waters," used to be put into "saggs" at the pub on the waterfront. The pub is still there, at the end of a midge-promenade where a bicycle frame of great antiquity has been washed up.

The nearness of the Cheshire brine fields brought the chemical industry to Widnes. The other chemical and ancillary boys moved in — with fertilisers, cements, copper, metal castings, asbestos, to name a few products — and the "wide-ness" became a steaming, bubbling monument to economic advance and human carelessness.

There is no doubt about the uncompromising industrialism of this part of Merseyside. The great mass of Fiddler's Ferry Power Station forms the eastern rampart. Once beyond the threshold, the language is alien: what, you wonder, goes on at "International Colloids" and "Panalised Tanks"? What ancient mischief-maker is immortalised in "Black Denton's Place"? On the way to the waterfront a glimpse of dusty Gothic on an old building deepens the gloom: "The child of Hale" — all ye who are heavy laden... Widnes Rugby League team is known as "The Chemicals."

The bulk of the remaining slums, neat and tidy in the manner of small towns, are at West Bank, where a great pale-green suspension bridge soars up and carries the traffic across to Runcorn. The arrogance of the bridge increases West Bank's humiliation. The inhabitants sense it, apparently. "West Bank may get tough!" explains the local paper, and you can hardly blame it. The new civic centre on Kingsway, with a court building that looks like a freshly unwrapped piece of nougat, suggests the perversity of civic pride.

Widnes is not the whole of the constituency. Farther round the promontory is Hale, snug and well-off, with a long lane leading down to a disused lighthouse. "No through road," a sign says, and a lady with a small dog looks cross as we ignore it. According to Samuel Pepys, a 9ft 5in giant from those parts "The child of Hale" was summoned to London to fight King James's wrestler in the sixteenth century. The giant triumphed and the King, well amused, sent him home with £20.

There is the old pit village of Clock Face near St. Helens at Rainhill, which can vassers mentally split into

Where voters are conditioned to pollution

Rainhill North (Labour) and Rainhill South (Tory). The biggest change in the constituency has been Halewood, the massive housing scheme for Liverpool across the road from Ford's Merseyside factory. There are 14,000 votes here, about 75 per cent of them thought to be Labour.

But well over half the electorate of 73,569, a slight increase on last year's total, lies in or immediately around Widnes itself. The constituency has been returning a Labour MP for long enough to be regarded as a Labour seat and its spreading acres of council houses continue to improve the party's chances. But the town council is Tory-controlled, a legacy of the great swing to the Right in the late 60s, coupled with the effects of boundary revision. Labour, however, won each of the six wards it contested in the local elections this year and the Tory majority of councillors is down to two.

Unemployment stands at 3.7 per cent, although Widnes

has not done badly out of its designation as a development district. British Oxygen has a new plant in the town and other arrivals in the vicinity have included Rio Tinto Zinc, Golden Wonder Crisps, and Rael Brook shirts. What Widnes needs, like so much of the North, is access to the kind of social capital that can come only from establishing new national priorities for central government money.

It has fallen victim, like many another town, to imperfect planning techniques and decisions over which it has no control. Only 3,000 of the 18,000 people who should have come from Liverpool have actually moved in, because Liverpool has abandoned its overspill programme. The result is that the redevelopment of Widnes is suddenly frozen, sites are partially cleared, buildings stand half demolished, and developers have grown sceptical. Planning blight has ravaged the immediate prospects. The byelection, which will be on September 23, was caused by the death of Mr. James MacCalli. It will

be a straight fight between Labour and Conservative and Mr. Oakes, a local solicitor and former mayor of the town, seems a certain winner. He was the MP for Bolton West from 1964 until last year.

Neither he nor the Conservative, Mr. David Stanley, an Oxford graduate and personnel officer at ICI Runcorn, can pretend that their attitudes over the Common Market will sway more than a handful of voters. Mr. Oakes has in fact been against entry ever since Labour published its own White Paper, not only because he thinks the increased cost of living and the value-added tax will be too great a burden for Lancashire, but also because he senses that the North-west is at the wrong end of Europe for economic progress. Mr. Stanley, who fought North-west seats in 1964 and 1966, supports entry.

Both candidates, however, seem to recognise that Widnes has too many problems of its own. The Common Market here is a

luxury issue. Mr. Stanley, like his opponent, will concern himself a great deal with housing, pollution and labour problems. Mr. Oakes will make the Government's White Paper on rents the chief plank of his campaign, arguing that the likely increase of £1.50 a week for council houses is harsh and unacceptable.

"Hundreds of families have moved into council houses here from Merseyside slums and they are only just beginning to cope with rents of £4 a week on top of setting up new homes," he said. "Few families will benefit under the rebate scheme, and those who do will be subsidised by other council tenants. The poor will be helping the poor."

Labour's majority increased from 1,598 to 9,378 between 1959 and 1966 and was reduced to 7,543 in the swing to the Tories last year. But there is a creeping disillusion with politics: the percentage poll came down steadily in the 11 years up to 1970 from 83 per cent to 68 per cent, in spite of an increasing population. It would be surprisingly naive of the politicians, local or national, if in looking about them they failed to see why.

Figures for the last general election were: J. E. MacCalli (Lab.) 28,355; G. H. Preece (C.) 10,541; Labour majority: 7,543.

Widnes from the Runcorn Bridge



Rights to a home

By our own Reporter

Homeless families who have been refused accommodation by their local authorities were yesterday given the right to appeal to the Citizen's Rights Office, which is compiling a dossier on the problem.

The CRO, which was set up by the Child Poverty Agency, intends to press Sir Joseph, Secretary for Social Services, to take action to increase both temporary and permanent accommodation for homeless families.

Mrs. Audrey Harvey, director of the Child Poverty group, said yesterday there was evidence that families refused accommodation in county districts were being urged to try their luck in London. The failure to solve the problem of homelessness was even greater outside London, she said.

Greater London last year had 3,729 applications from families evicted by private landlords. But in county boroughs there had been only 1,984 applications and in county councils 1,041 admissions from 1,012 applications.

"Throughout England," the number of applications outnumbered families found new homes by more than four to one, she said.

No figures were available for Shropshire, where two large families threatened with eviction from their cottages are now living in former police houses.

Winkfield, after their plight was described by the CRO, the husband, wife, and six children, who lived in Winkfield, a labourer, now have as next door neighbours the Taylor family, a widow, wife, and six children, and a fostered baby, who were evicted from a council house.

Mr. Fraser, a remedial teacher at Winkfield High School, London, said to give more positive help to children who are slow learners mainly because of social and other problems.

He said afterwards that Mrs. Thatcher had made some

School milk plan 'mean'

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A national conference of schoolteachers yesterday carried a resolution deploring the stopping of school milk for the over-16s, and the increase in the price of school meals. It pressed for a reversal of "this penny-pinching action."

The conference for young members of the National Union of Teachers was held at Bradford.

Commenting on the withdrawal of milk, Mr. Tony Pearce, (Stoke-on-Trent), complained: "This action is not just petty, it is bloody mean."

Mr. John Putta (Brent) said there were signs that the welfare and health of children from poor families was in jeopardy. He claimed that the number of children taking school meals had dropped by a million, a 20 per cent reduction.

The conference also approved a proposal demanding action to limit the size of classes of slow-learning pupils to a maximum of 15. This was in spite of a warning of the danger of creating ghettos.

Mr. A. Fraser (Brent), who said that in areas with a high immigrant population slow-learning classes had a large proportion of immigrant children.

Mr. Fraser, a remedial teacher at Winkfield High School, London, said to give more positive help to children who are slow learners mainly because of social and other problems.

He said afterwards that Mrs. Thatcher had made some

Paint killed boy, 6

Callings at the village school in Tomnavar, near Port Talbot, have been forced off after the death of a boy who is thought to have chewed flakes of paint from them.

Leighton George, aged six, of Tomnavar, died at Neath General Hospital in July a few days after complaining of an upset stomach. Three other children were found to have slightly abnormal amounts of lead in their blood stream when 24 children in the boy's class, and their parents, were given medical checks.

The new school term was to have begun last week but the 100 pupils were kept at home until the boy's death had been investigated.

Dr. D. H. J. Williams, the Medical Officer of Health for Port Talbot, is reasonably confident that lead in the paint was the cause of the boy's death.

"We have gone through the school with a small-tooth comb to search for the cause of the lead poisoning. We looked at toys, equipment, the kitchen—everything. The same thing was done throughout the village," he said yesterday.

Mr. Jack Jones, president of the National Union of Teachers, told the conference that after making full allowances for cost of living differences, teachers in Canada, Australia, and the United States were 50 per cent better off than in Britain. "The fact that teachers in those countries do not suffer the effects of professional attrition is not without significance," he said.

"The events of the past year must surely convince every thinking teacher of the need to close ranks with the face of Government and local authorities that are determined to

Denise needs rest

A COMPLETE REST has been ordered for Denise Weller, aged six months, who was taken from her pram five weeks ago and now safely back with her parents in Harlow, Essex.

The family doctor has examined her and says she is a bit run down.

Denise, faced television lights and press cameras and this unsettled her, her father, Mr. Terry Weller, aged 25, said yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Weller will today phone the Brighton registrar whose suspicions led the police to Hull. Mr. Weller said that they owed the registrar, Mr. F. E. Harris, everything.

Mr. Harris said on Saturday that a woman had phoned from Hull to report the premature birth of a baby in Brighton. He could find no record of medical attendance at the birth and told the police.

Pauline Margaret Jones (23), of Northumberland Avenue, Hull, will appear at Harlow today charged with unlawfully taking away the baby.

Neutrality 'is lost'—Wilson

The Government appeared to be departing from its position of neutrality and to be accepting an alliance with one faction in Ulster, Mr. Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, said at the weekend.

A statement by him said: "Because of the Government's outrageous refusal to recall Parliament to debate the grave situation in Northern Ireland, it is necessary for all of us to make our positions clear by the much less satisfactory means of public statements and speeches."

"The Labour Party has shown great forbearance and understanding in view of the rapidly deteriorating situation, but on the eve of the Heath-Lynch talks some comment on the realities of Northern Ireland cannot be withheld."

"We face these facts: '1. British soldiers are having to carry near-intolerable burden in a situation—urban terrorism and guerrilla warfare—for which no army has been trained."

"2. The British taxpayer is being called on to make available continually sums of money with diminishing control over how that money is being spent or over the policies which it sustains."

Cowardly murder

"As news is received daily of cowardly murder of British soldiers and the ghastly toll of civilian casualties, on one thing all are agreed: violence must be resisted and the sources of that violence extirpated by the security authorities. On the other side there is a grave accumulation of reports forecasting the development of forces of private armed vigilantes at a time when it is paramount that the tasks of the security authorities should not be made still more difficult."

"One element in a gravely deteriorating situation is the growing appearance of a British Government departing from its position of neutrality and accepting a state of alliance with a single Ulster faction. A faction, moreover, increasingly

subject to blackmail from irresponsible extremists. The resulting alienation of moderate elements leaves those who could exercise restraint in a position where they have nowhere to turn."

"This was not the basis on which the Labour Government introduced the United Kingdom's new security role, and Parliament has the right to be satisfied that this trend of the past months will be sharply reversed."

"There is no future in withdrawal and the abandonment of Northern Ireland to the rule of force and unrestricted gun-rule. Equally, none of us see the imposition of direct rule from Westminster as anything but a policy of last resort, but what is immediate and must be realised now is this. There is no future in a policy based on the repression of violence alone unless that is accompanied by an active or intensified search for a political solution. The present Government's policies in Northern Ireland are set on a dead-end."

"So, on the eve of these important talks with Mr. Lynch, this must be said. Mr. Heath may continue to insist, as he is entitled to do, on the terms of the Downing Street Declaration of August 1969, that Northern Ireland is a British responsibility. But if he does, then, equally, he has the duty to make clear that the present Conservative Government intends to honour that responsibility. This means asserting that any question of the British Government abdicating that responsibility in favour of factional policies determined by Stormont is intolerable."

"The right forum now for determining the policy for Northern Ireland is the British Parliament at Westminster. In Parliament the Government and MPs must thrash out a new initiative based on a real and constructive assertion of responsibility by the British Government and people to fashion at least a medium-term political solution."

Claim denied

Mr. Wilson's claim that the Government was allying itself with one faction in Northern Ireland, irresponsible, the Home Secretary, Mr. Maude, said yesterday.

"He knows as well as we do how very serious the situation is, and he knows perfectly well that the policies we have been pursuing are very similar to those initiated by himself and Mr. Callaghan," Mr. Maude said in the BBC programme "The World This Weekend."

"This is not a situation in which any responsible leader should stir up a party battle in this country. The campaign of 'murder, terrorism, and intimidation' by the IRA, which was a small minority of the Catholic population, had created circumstances in which it was very difficult for moderate Catholic opinion to make itself felt. People who do not support the IRA are liable to be murdered," Mr. Maude said.

He rejected a suggestion that Stormont had been a major political blunder. It had become necessary, he said, for security. "You will find that the blow struck at terrorists by Stormont has been a severe one, and this will continue to accumulate."

Leader comment, page 8

Labour contest for post

By our Labour Staff

Mr. Norman Atkinson, MP for Tottenham, will again try to oust Mr. Callaghan from the Labour Party treasurership at this year's annual conference at Brighton.

He is unlikely to be successful even though he has the support of his own union, the engineers, and a solid left-wing line-up which includes the transport workers and the scientific workers.

Mr. Callaghan has the solid support of several large and middle-ranking unions and of a wide range of constituency parties.

One vacancy occurs on the national executive committee this year. Mr. Frank Coppel, the electricians' leader, has now moved across to join the TUC General Council.

The ETU nominee is Mr. E. Clayton, who will be strongly opposed by Mr. John Forrester, of the draughtsmen, last year's runner-up, and by Mr. Norman Stagg, assistant general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers.

As usual, the "Tribune" group is bidding strongly for seats in the constituency section. The familiar names of Mr. John Mendelson, Mr. Stan Orme, and Mr. Eric Heffer appear again. But since there are no vacancies they are unlikely to oust the present tenants.

The final agenda for the conference is little different from the preliminary one issued several weeks ago. The one innovation is the NEC's resolution on the Common Market opposing entry on the terms negotiated by the Government. It asks the Parliamentary Party to "unite wholeheartedly" in voting against the Government's policy.

A county from the sea

A new county twice the size of the Isle of Wight should be built on land reclaimed from the Thames Estuary, an architect said yesterday.

Mr. Norman Royce told the Faculty of Building conference at Birmingham that Britain was losing 60,000 acres a year through erosion and development. "The time has come to begin increasing our land area again, and the place to do it is the South-east, adjacent to Europe and on a scale comparable to a new county."

He said 600 square miles of land in the estuary could be reclaimed as a series of islands, connected by bridges and tunnels. The project would cost £3,000 to £4,000 a acre, but the new land allocated to industry would be worth many times as much.

A specialist on the use of land has called for a truce between farmers and visitors from the towns. Miss Nam Fairbrother told a town and country planning summer school at Southampton that in some cases farmers should give way to visitors, and farm unproductive upland country over to tourists.

'Drugs in gaol' inquiry

An investigation is to be held into alleged drug trafficking at Durham gaol. The deputy governor, Mr. R. Nash, will lead the inquiry into the allegations, made by an ex-prisoner, who claimed that young prisoners were in danger of being corrupted.

Yard men remanded on bail

Two Scotland Yard Flying Squad detectives have appeared in court charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Detective Sergeant Peter Rank Holmes (34), of Lynwood Rise, Orpington, Kent, and Detective Sergeant Frank Marshall (31), of Windmill Road, Enfield, Middlesex, were remanded on £500 bail each.

On October 12, Police had no objection to bail. The appearance was at Greenwich on Thursday.

Both men are charged that, between August 12 and September 2 in the Easter London area, they conspired together to pervert the course of justice in that they acted contrary to the administration of law following arrest on August 12 of 11 Keith Soltz for an offence (Section 1 of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1967) contrary to common law.

Body is found on mountain

The body of a man who has been missing for a week was found today on a mountain in Ben Cruchan, Argyllshire. Robert Russell, aged 55, of 100 Terrace, Motherwell, a dresser, is thought to have died from exposure.

A police mountain rescue team and two RAF helicopter teams took part in the search. An RAF helicopter from Leuchars flew the body

The myths and facts of August

By GORDON MANLEY

Windy weather at the end of August, with the Prime Minister rescuing venturesome young dinghy sailors and talking about force seven to eight of the Essex coast, may lead some to wonder if our weather is still breaking records.

Not so. It may be that since Admiral Beaufort invented his scale in 1805 we have not had a Prime Minister before who could speak with expert knowledge of force seven winds. But we have in the past had plenty of windy weather at this season.

All Southern England on August 30 1858 was exceptionally windy, and Royalists do not appear to have discouraged the rumour that the devil was at work on his way for the dying Oliver Cromwell.

Bartholomewide—August 24—used to be regarded by many as the beginning of autumn when, after the pilgrimage had been done while the corn ripened about the beginning of

August, and the corn had been cut and (one hoped) brought in the first brisk winds might blow. Note was taken of the weather because it was supposed to indicate the character of the autumn ahead.

The proverbial occurrence of "St. Luke's little summer" about October 18, like the "Ice Saints" (May 11-13), appears to mark "tendencies" in the annual march of the weather that gain a little support from the more accurate tabulations of modern times.

For example, the second quarter of September shows on the long run of years an appreciably greater inclination towards fine weather than either the first or third.

August rains have very often been noted in the past, and this year they beset South-east England at the beginning, and then set up an unusual flood at

plenty of opportunity to sit out in the warmth, so much of the rain-fell at night and the ground was dry after the fine sunny July.

On balance, then, an average summer; cool and cloudy in June, wet in the South; warm and sunny in July, although never excessively hot; 88F in London appears to be close to the highest temperature recorded.

Then came the rather cloudy August, although with less thunder than usual, and windy towards the end, which must have helped to ventilate the cars waiting anxiously to enter those crowded roads in Devon and Cornwall.

At the time of writing it is odd to watch the trees waving in those breezy upper 60s, and reflect that in 1911 the beginning of September gave a temperature over 90F in South Yorkshire and Lancashire, and 94F in London.

"NOBODY WILL expect a tree to form its crown in exactly the same way as its root. Between, above, and below there cannot be exact mirror images of each other. It is obvious that different functions operating in different elements must produce vital divergences." Thus Paul Klee defends the contemporary artist's emancipation from direct representational art, and illustrates the kind of formal theory that underlies more abstract exploration.

It is a clear image, and I wish one as graphic were available to illuminate the radical change of focus in twentieth-century music also. Very often, indeed, composers have shied away from giving even clues as to how their music works. I suppose Pierre Boulez comes closest to defining the issue when he says that whereas classical Western music described "a simple trajectory traced between a point of departure and a point of arrival"—asserting, thus, the Euclidean principle that "a straight line is the shortest distance between two points"—today's music turns more and more towards a search for a relative universe, towards a permanent discovery comparable to a permanent revolution.

This is good as far as it goes: but he doesn't follow it through. I spoke recently with Luciano Berio—an avant-garde composer who is at long last receiving the public attention he deserves—and he maintained that Boulez talks too much; he externalises the formal processes of composition to the extent that he loses sight of their motivation.

Berio, by contrast (and I'm not trying to portray here an artificial rivalry where none exists), has always remained conscious of the human sources of musical expression. An Italian by birth, he lived and worked within the Italian operatic tradition for some time, coming to contemporary music relatively late in life. His tradition lives on in all his work, however esoteric. His family were musical—his father was a composer and church organist—and he learnt the traditional repertoire of chamber and operatic music early on.

He recalls, with a smirk, his first composition, "Pastorale" inspired by his reading of Romain Rolland's "Jean-Christophe". Moreover, living away from the city in Oneglia, Northern Italy, he was isolated from the current trends in the arts, and wartime Mussolini's Italy offered only a limited range of music anyway. Berio describes his initiation into contemporary music as a series of shocks, beginning with Milhaud's cantata, "La mort d'un tyran", which he heard in 1945—Milhaud's experiments with stage music in "Les Choeurs" and "Les Femmes" impressed him deeply—and subsequently, the music of Webern, Schoenberg, Berg, Stravinsky. Having studied at the Milan Conservatory, he was able to earn his living as operatic répétiteur and conductor, appearing at La Scala, La Fenice, and other opera-houses in Italy and abroad. (Berio remembers vividly directing a performance of Strauss's "Salome" in South America, the first at which the heroine appeared nude in the "Dance of the Seven Veils.") But from 1948—when he was 24—he turned his attention decisively towards composition.

Berio still recognises to what extent opera was the parent-form in Western music. The symmetries and asymmetries we observe, the "simple trajectory" Boulez mentions, these look rooted because music was dependent upon the example of the Western tradition, as instrumental music took opera as its direct model. We can hear expiations in Mozart symphonies and concertos, but we do not have to listen hard to hear also arias and duets and ensembles. We talk about "melodic phrases" and "paraphrases"; but they are sung or played, for these are an enlargement or extension of the characteristics of speech. Music in our century has severed itself from this verbal umbilical cord.

Berio regards the search for viable formal alternatives to the Western tradition as dependent upon a full harnessing of the sonorous and stylistic resources available. It is significant



Berio recording 'Epifanie' for RCA

The labyrinth maker

Meirion Bowen reports on the work of Luciano Berio, whose influences range from James Joyce to Mahler and folk music. His techniques have already influenced pop LPs and his settings of folk songs performed by Cathy Berberian, have just been recorded by RCA. On Saturday he appears at the last concert of the Edinburgh Festival. Of Mahler, Berio said that his work seemed to bear within it the weight of the entire history of music. That would aptly characterise Berio himself.

that for both Boulez and Berio a work of art is now best thought of as a labyrinth, a maze of secret corridors, exits and entrances. But their methods of charting the labyrinth are very different.

Boulez remains obsessed with the structure of musical language and with the possible formulation of a meta-language, uncontaminated by general parlance. His position was analogous to that of Wittgenstein at the time of the "Tractatus". And just as Wittgenstein abandoned his earlier notion to study "language in action", to produce the language-games of "Philosophical Investigations", so Boulez abandoned strict serialism, introduced aleatory elements into his works and has since sought a more flexible way of controlling the linguistic components. He retains, in his recent music, a high degree of isolation from any accidental or ornamental styles: he never toys with dodecaphony, or introduces "extra-musical" noise or electronics as a separate element. He is almost puritanical in his detachment from any semblance of the musical vernacular. Boulez's labyrinth is a formal miracle beneath which there is emotional anarchy. His own term is a "highly organised emotional delirium".

Berio's labyrinth is another matter altogether. He rejects little. Musically speaking, Boulez's purity is counterbalanced by Berio's promiscuity. The ingredients for his "Laborintus II", the Dante commemorative piece, which was heard recently at a Prom, and which had evoked enthusiastic response in this country (it is recorded on RCA), are many and multifarious: speech, in several languages, sung melody and other vocalised sounds, noises like band-clapping,

an electronic component, instrumental writing both controlled and improvisatory, and much else. Berio is concerned here to establish certain relationships within a rich texture—like bringing together jazz and other noises on tape to signify the climactic inferno, associated with modern industrialised society; but he also allows various inter-relationships to emerge of their own accord. His method is akin to the stream-of-consciousness technique in the works of James Joyce, the artist who has influenced Berio most powerfully.

It is as inaccurate, indeed, to assume that Berio's kaleidoscopic major compositions are shapeless as it is to imagine Joyce's "Ulysses" to be the pure verbalising. There is formal perfection in each, yet the content yields countless fresh meanings simply by virtue of the method by which they are put over. But before considering that method we must remember how scrupulously Berio selects and modifies the ingredients to suit his purpose.

His investigation of electronics is a case in point. After studying in Tanglewood with his compatriot Dallapiccola, Berio returned to Italy to join the staff of Italian radio, starting up an electronic music studio there in 1955. But he was not primarily interested in electronics. He saw it as an intermediary field, somewhere between that of humanly produced sound and everyday noise. He chose to investigate, through electronics, the whole spectrum of acoustic imagery. He collaborated, on the one hand with poets and linguists—members of the Novissima group (like Eduardo Sanguineti and Umberto Eco)—and outstanding performers, amongst them, the spectacular singer, Cathy Ber-

berian (Berio's first wife, and herself a composer experimenting particularly with vocalised sounds).

The fruit of such researches were works like "Omaggio di Joyce", "Visage", "Epifanie" and "Laborintus II". "Visage" centres on the word "parole", and the voice of Cathy Berberian here makes an organic impression in the first five minutes. Parallel to the works exploring the potential of vocalised sound are the series of "Sequenze" for individual instruments: some introduce effects obtained by the Bartolozzi method and they all seem to encapsulate the characteristics and past history of those instruments.

At the same time, Berio was progressing towards a new concept of musical texture. Even the formal qualities of works from the fifties begin to verge on the theatrical. Berio is constantly in search of relationships between things, rather than distinctions: he is an opponent of dualism in any form, and hopes that he will live long enough to see the conventional separation of audience and participants in theatrical presentations lose its ascendancy.

The sixties saw Berio drawing together all the strands of experimentation with which he had been occupied, creating works which, as he said of one of them, "Circles" (1960), "should be listened to as theatre and looked at as music." "Circles" itself uses poems by e. e. cummings not as the basis of a straight setting but as the linguistic starting-point for an astonishing conjunction of vocal instrumental and action elements. "Passaggio" (1962-3), whose British premiere London Sinfonietta hope to feature in their next season's programmes, was Berio's first, characteris-

tic response to a commission from La Piccola Scala in Milan. He worked here (as in the later "Laborintus II") with Eduardo Sanguineti, and produced a "Mass on the stage": a dialogue between five groups constituting a speaking chorus in the auditorium, and on stage, the single character, "Sbe", based to some extent on the Milena of Kafka's letters and on Rosa Luxemburg.

It's a provocative piece, deliberately inviting the audience to identify with poses of conformity, selfishness, mental laziness and support for conventional taboos suggested by the chorus: there is no plot, only the solitary woman, "beaten by those who are sure of their myths and idols, persecuted and reduced to an object".

More assured than "Passaggio" is his recent "Opera", which had a controversial reception at its premiere last year at the Santa Fe Opera. Again Berio creates a non-story, using fragments of three possible stories—the sinking of the Titanic; the New York Open Theatre's "Terminal" (chunks of which occur as in the original, other parts modified); and finally, the death of Orpheus. All three stories are constantly present, their interrelationships shifting and altering perspective constantly. Berio focuses on one situation after another, all the characters and situations used constantly to inspire. He applies his stream-of-consciousness method to the stage here quite explicitly. At one point, the stage caves in and regurgitates memories of past operas enacted upon it.

Unlike Nono and other Italian contemporaries, Berio has avoided making his works a medium for political propaganda: political or other events that have affected him deeply he has treated as a catalyst to composition on his own terms. Berio's treatment of the name "Mahler" King as the starting-point for vocalisations in the second movement of the "Sinfonia", slogans written on the walls of the Sorbonne during the riots in 1968 (where he happened to be at the time of the work's composition) are absorbed into the stream of words that flows along with, and against, the music in the third movement of the piece.

This Third movement of the "Sinfonia", using a Mahler movement as a vessel for quotations from the music past and present, with a verbal counterpart in Beckett's "The Unnamable", also created as a vessel for verbal quotations and vocalisations, heard simultaneously—epitomises Berio's method. Of Mahler, Berio said that his work seemed to bear within it the weight of the entire history of music. That would aptly characterise Berio himself.

His fascination with the voice is evident here in the way he often reconstitutes Mahler's instrumental writing as vocalised effect. About 10 years ago, the Times referred to Luigi Nono, as "the Puccini of the avant-garde"; which so amused a professor at the university where I was a student that he made a determined effort to sing "O my beloved father" in the fragmented, serial manner, to hilarious effect. That laurel, or one similar, might now better be awarded to Berio. His sensitivity to words and vocal inflections enables him to work within the most elaborate theatrical contexts, and also to make potential chart-buffers out of folk-songs of different nations: his series of 11 such settings were recently recorded for BBC TV's "Music Now" with Cathy Berberian and London Sinfonietta, and RCA are to release them on disc.

It is likely also, I guess, that Berio's stream-of-consciousness technique will come to be regarded as a mainstream method, if it hasn't already: its deployment on pop LPs is already widespread, and in a world wherein the geographical divisions separating musical cultures from one another are constantly being shattered, it is one successful way of ordering a prodigious diversity of idioms. The method is in any case not new to film-makers—whose fast cutting of scenes, flashbacks and other temporal manipulations have been accepted as normal since the inception of the medium. Berio holds an important key to the twentieth-century aesthetic labyrinth.

NEW RECORDS REVIEWED

BY EDWARD GREENFIELD

Henze means paeans

"EL CIMARRON". Hans-Werner Henze's massive "recital for four musicians" first heard at the Aldeburgh Festival last year, is now presented on record (DGG 2707 050—two discs) and confounds any initial doubts I had about such new simplicity in Henze. At least it was powerfully as "The Raft of the Medusa". Henze's new directness can be measured as a aesthetic force, not just a political exercise.

No doubt a few extra copies will be sold because this (in my comparative, decorous experience) is the first time a record has presented good and low the most notorious of four-letter words. The Aldeburgh programme put it in asterisks. German-speaking DGG have no such inhibitions in their German text and English translation. To be fair this is merely a passage illustrating the harsh manners of neo-imperial Yankees taking over Cuba.

To outline what "El Cimarron" about is to make it sound like a le wing propaganda exercise. It is more, the intensely moving story of Cuban, born in slavery in 1880. The tale takes fifteen key passages from a complete story as dictated in the mar hundredth year—childhood, social life in the woods, life on a sugar plantation, Revolution against the Church part of the story (cozy well contain with flute touching in plainsong), a naturally the revolution against Spain.

But where at Aldeburgh the baroque improvisation of accompaniment of guitar and percussion behind the baritone declamation (the new William Pearson) sounded dangerous, undisciplined, the pattern on record musical as well as dramatic, see finely controlled.

One remembers particularly poetry of the wood scene (bass and guitar harmonies intensely evocative) and the beautiful scene with blood-curdling yells for all four musicians. Such movements are the more effective for being observed merely in the mind's without the distraction of having to Yamashta, the percussionist, leap from phone to stool to ring ribbons in hair. The dedicated performance, superbly recorded, is by original quartet of musicians—Pearl and Yamashta joined by Karlheinz Zöller and Leo Baecker.

Henze's "Essay on Pigs" is another of the new direct, left-wing work using instead of Pearson the Roy Hart, singing like war through eight octaves as he did for P. Maxwell Davies in "Songs for a King". But after "El Cimarron" for that matter after the Davies, seems to be trying too hard, me a half-way stage in Henze's new development. In the record, the coupling of the inhuman Double Concerto, played by Gary Karr and English Chamber Orchestra conducted by the composer (DGG 129456).

Henze's Second Piano Concerto massive in argument to match its length (50 minutes) is played with gusto by the dedicatee, Christoph Eschenbach, and the London Philharmonic in Henze (DGG 2530 056). There is a of Henze's new simplicity here. But in its unsmiling complexity it represents a latter-day development of Reger tradition in the German piano concerto.

The Everest label, now very reasonably priced at £14.1 per record, gives two useful examples of Henze's recording work with the Alpine Music. A two-disc set (SD 171) presents Schoenberg's "Pier Lunaire" in a vivid reading by El Pilarczyk coupled with the Seres Opus 24, while two more Schoenberg works, the Chamber Symphony and "Three Pieces of 1910" are coupled with Messiaen's Seven Hairs, and heard this week in Boulez' later Prom at the Round House (SDBR 3192).

ALBERT HALL

Edward Greenfield

BBC Scottish

THE BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under James Loughran provided an unusually substantial Saturday Prom programme—even for these ambitious days. They made it the more substantial by adopting a procedure that Sir Henry Wood used roundly to condemn—observing the exposition repeats in both the symphonies which framed the concert, Mendelssohn's "Italian" and Beethoven's "Pastoral".

It is only a few years since this long-neglected practice started to return. Wood used to say that the twentieth-century listener should know his symphonic structures well enough not to need so much repetition, but there is little doubt that these two symphonies gain significantly from having the balance properly set in the first movement. The trend, I deduce, has followed a developing practice in the recording world, where minutes snipped off a symphony are not necessarily an advantage for the purchaser. Certainly in the "Italian" where the repeat brings a full 20 bars of lead-back (for generations unheard), the case is unanswerable, and on this occasion an immediate repeat allowed the orchestra to get into its stride the second time through. A theory that after the resilient account of the first movement Loughran then let tension slip, and the next two movements sounded perfunctory. But the development section in the final Saiterello once more inspired the Scottish players to lift the music with rhythmic verve.

Walton's Viola Concerto—originally a Prom work of 1928—brought a fine young Hungarian soloist, Csaba Erdelyi, who plays with big, precise tone. This was the very opposite of the meandering, wayward performance record-collectors know from Menuhin. There were one or two places, where Erdelyi might have found more poetry, and he was almost too secure in the central scherzo, where it is fun for everyone to live dangerously. But generally tautness and expressiveness were nicely balanced to underline the yearning, acid romanticism of Walton's early masterpiece.

Heather Harper rightly won an ovation for her singing of three songs from Mahler's "Des Knaben Wunderhorn". The pay-off lines in these highly sophisticated songs of simplicity did not always find the orchestra in its

review



most pointed form, but with Harper underlining the melodic links with folk-song and presenting each one with apparent artlessness, solo and accompaniment were nicely blended.

HYDE PARK

Robin Denselow

Jack Bruce

BLACKHILL ENTERPRISES, British pioneers of free pop, were allowed back into Hyde Park on Saturday for the last bash of the season. Predictably, they were determined to show that they can provide better free music than a certain rival organisation that unleashed the grizzly Grand Funk Railroad on the Park a few weeks back—and they managed it with ease, thanks to King Crimson, Roy Harper (who produced a batch of new songs and a performance almost up to his recording standards), and the new Jack Bruce band.

Bruce's new band is excellent. It's made up of musicians who, like Bruce, have been through a variety of bands and styles, starting off in several cases—with the sixties B and B boom, and the influence of Alexis Korner. Bruce, of course, played with blues-based bands (Graham Bond Organisa-

tion, Cream) and more recently moved to the borders of modern jazz with Lifetime. His new band marks something of a return towards the Cream format (they even played "Politician") but with multi-instrumental lineup that helped show up the many sides of Bruce's musicianship. There is his former boss Graham Bond on organ and alto sax, Art Themen on tenor sax, Chris Spillane on guitar, and John Marshall on drums: an impressive bunch but all of them firmly controlled by Bruce's bass and vocal.

The material ranged from ballads both lyrical and thunderous (with Bruce on piano for the gentler pieces) to blues and jazz-rock. For a band who have been together in this combination for such a short time (this was their first major concert) their playing was tough, vital, and almost astonishingly tight. Bruce looked delighted: this, more than Cream, is his band.

EDINBURGH

Nicholas de Jongh

Alice

THERE WAS an outburst of repeated booing and some counter cheers at the end of the Manhattan Project's performance of "Alice in Wonderland" on Tuesday. The boos may have been ill-mannered but they could not have been better justified, for the Manhattan production is a repellent travesty of the original. It dishonours the work of Lewis Carroll and experimental theatre under whose banner this American company apparently "work".

When I refer to "travesty" I do not use the word as a purist, outraged by this perversion of "Alice". There would be nothing intrinsically wrong with the conception of an acid "Wonderland", a view of the dream life with sexual menace, untension and madness, with eyes only for the barred and visionary garden. But the Manhattan Project has the benefit of no sustaining conviction and little apparent aptitude. Imagine "Alice" rewritten by a mindless Hollywood hack, sounding one note of hysteria and creating cheap cracks everywhere, and you have the Manhattan Project.

The project has taken a random selection of scenes from "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice Through the Looking Glass" and flung them defiantly together, conveyed every character in hysterical rant, castrato voice or

madman's gabble. The effect is not of a madhouse which the company presumably intended, it is more a pantomime version of mania. On a bare playing area surrounded by doors and occasional rubbish, the actors use themselves functionally: a footnote says that the Director, Andre Gregory, was inspired by Grotowski—never can such stunts have brought such results. The company is like Grotowski only in the sense that it depends on its own bodies and not on mechanical stage effects. Alice's descent down the rabbit warren is shown by four actors swinging bar in the air. The stoned caterpillar sits on a sacred mushroom composed of four crouched human beings, and all the sounds are made by the actors' mouths.

The failure is one of tone and structure. Each Wonderland character, from Humpty Dumpty to the White Rabbit, is allowed to shout or scream in a confused fashion of farcical caricature close to unintelligibility. Slapstick takes over the mad tea party, and the four-letter expletive and a bird who keeps putting his head under Alice's skirts are gratuitous attempts to spring laughter. Alice herself is knowing, thematic, underlain by a knowing and all-American, under-age, flimflam, and her encounters with the Wonderland people are milked for laughter while all interior conviction is suspended. The insertion of Humpty Dumpty and the White Knight, after the tea party, is without any cohesive reason and brings the play abruptly to a close. It is frightful.

EDINBURGH

Gerald Larner

Chicago S O

THE CHICAGO Symphony Orchestra — on its first tour abroad since it was founded 80 years ago — is now in Edinburgh, enjoying an enormous success with the Festival audience. The company is like Grotowski only in the sense that it depends on its own bodies and not on mechanical stage effects. Alice's descent down the rabbit warren is shown by four actors swinging bar in the air. The stoned caterpillar sits on a sacred mushroom composed of four crouched human beings, and all the sounds are made by the actors' mouths.

The other great quality of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is the clarity. Balance of sound, a blend of colours, overall rhythmic precision, create a texture with every line both audible and in perspective. So it is a lively rather than a rich sound, always

interesting, finely finished rather than smooth. And these qualities were heard at their best in the one American work the orchestra has brought to its four Edinburgh concerts, Elliott Carter's Variations for Orchestra. Being not the latest Carter — the Variations were written in 1955 — they are relatively easy to follow. Mr Solit, moreover, was helpful in bringing forward those repeated themes and serial fragments which hold the work so closely together, and the ear was free to indulge itself in the complexities of the texture, which is elaborately worked but (in a performance as skilful and as aware as this) never overcrowded.

The overture to the "Midsummer Night's Dream" demonstrated similar qualities — the precise delicacy of the strings, the just intonation of the woodwind. But it was a curiously unmusical and unatmospheric interpretation on the conductor's part. As for Brahms's First Symphony, as someone said, it was a wonderful performance but the wrong piece. The right piece would have been a more excitable and less stable work, one without the interrelated, tempo, without the strong thematic undertone towards the end, with every change of tempo and every emotional unpredictability foreseen and responded to with unquestionable conviction.

ROYAL ACADEMY

Caroline Tisdall

Sculptors' prize

THE IDEA BEHIND the national competition sponsored by the "Daily Telegraph" colour magazine was to encourage a wider market for the work of young sculptors. The age limit was 30 and most of the pieces submitted were small-scale, obviously with the private buyer in mind. The judges included Eduardo Paolozzi and Elisabeth Frink and some of the points they brought up were a good deal more interesting than most of the work that got through the exhibition. There was a general feeling that standards are disintegrating and that criticism must be more outspoken. They expressed disappointment at the general level of imagination, and Paolozzi went so far as to suggest that the £3,000 prize money would have been better spent on sponsoring research into art schools "where there is something of a crisis at the moment".

The winning piece by Linda Mallett

ALBERT HALL

Meirion Bowen

Barenboim Prom

BARENBOIM NIGHT at the Proms no doubt become a regular feature of the future series. For this irrepressible, committed young musician desert programme to himself, giving full to his talents as pianist and conductor.

In the first half of this concert accompanied the violinist, Pin Zukerman, in Schubert's Sonata minor, Opus 30 No. 2. Both works the intimate conventions of domestic chamber music to make big statements, consequently offering much to a large audience in the Albert Hall as to those, like me, listening to the relay on Radio 3. Barenboim was the most useful, by-minded partner in this duel. He held the most of the surprising tensions that pervade the Schubert bursts delivered powerfully the stormy He lined not enough, in fact, quieter, brooding passages, optimistic of the cryptic quality of the part in the Beethoven sonata first movement was lost altogether, and murmuring commentaries were skimmed over. Zukerman, however, compensated with a well suited some sense of reserve and propriety to their interpretations. His intense sometimes went awry in more a stoned episode, but overall these compelling performances, stylish warm-hearted.

Barenboim returned after the interval to inject some vitality and de corps into the often faded sound of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. His conducting of Schubert's Ninth symphony, many of two hazards of tempo, and ensemble, which have supplanted many mighty baton-wielders in work.

Danger: women at work

Geoffrey Sheridan looks at the pattern of pay in textiles. Pictures by Robert Smithies

SPINNING frames up at Salts' mill on the outskirts of Bradford are operated by both men and women, but the men work six frames at a time while the women manage seven for practically the same pay. Why, I asked the male overseer, were women expected to do more work than the men? "Because it's women's work," he said.

Under the terms of the Equal Pay Act, passed last year, employers are required to give women equal pay to men by the end of 1975, where they are doing the same or broadly similar work. Many women still have a long way to go, particularly the 45,000 female production workers in the wool textile industry. Their wage rates are only 70 per cent of the men's and the latest pay award—10 per cent across the board—did nothing to narrow the differential.

Neither management nor the unions are anxious to press the issue, and when I lunched with Jack Peel, general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers, and Textile Workers, and with Eric Booth, director of the employers' council, it was the first time they had ever discussed it together. The conversation, in part, went as follows:

Peel: "Equal pay is potentially an explosive and emotional subject. Vie and the rest pontificate about this (Mr Booth sits on the general council of the TUC) but, for God's sake, I have to look at the wider implications. I can't drop everything and antagonise half the labour force because we suddenly decide this is a burning issue. It has to take its place in the pipeline of events."

Booth: "If we're not careful this could be very expensive for us."

Peel: "We could easily upset the men; upset their differentials. The way to avoid this is to go gently along."

Booth: "If all women's wage rates have to come up to the lowest rate for men there would be a tremendous on-cost for an industry like ours which employs so many women. But these are discussions we need to have together, Jack, not something we ought to discuss with blood-curdling in front of the press."

Under the act, all references to "male rates" and "female rates" will merely disappear; there will simply be a rate for the job and it will apply to men and women equally. But when a job is done by women only, their rate must be no less than the lowest men's rate, and it is this clause which, according to a management consultant, is likely to cause the most trouble in the wool textile and leather goods industry.

The national agreement between management and the unions in the industry lays down minimum earnings for men and women workers. Women start at £10.20 for a 40-hour week, rising to £13.50 for the most highly skilled. But the men begin where the women end—£13.50.

After 40 hours, the men's pay rises to 40 per cent—leave off. The lowest grades of male workers—labourers, rag pickers, and single-loom weavers—are guaranteed a minimum wage of £14.30 while the men at the top of their pay scale will earn at least £23.10 a week.

Women's earnings levels will go up quite considerably, Mr Peel says, "but it means that all women's rates will be in argument to be readjusted. If a skilled woman is now earning £14 or £15 a week, she will be asked to accept £16.50. She won't be too happy if an unskilled woman is suddenly jumped up to her new level."

Mr Booth wonders whether men's earnings shouldn't be allowed to fall below £14.30 so that a labourer or a rag picker might earn, say, £11 a week which would then become the new minimum level for women's pay. He does recognise, however, that no union in its right mind would allow this.

"The Act isn't really a matter for negotiation," Mr Booth says, "because it's law. Yet if we try to minimise its effects it might well come in by the back door. What do I do, for instance, when the union comes along and says: 'These workers are getting £11 a week and that's not a living wage?' I won't be able to tell them, as I can now: 'Ah yes, but this is a woman's wage.'"

So far as equal pay for equal work is concerned, what will happen when there are, say, 500 women doing the same job as 20 men? You're not surely going to suggest the women's rate should come up to the men's rate for that job? It would make a lot more sense to get rid of the men—I'm just saying this for the sake of argument. And if women have to be paid as much as men, I would think that quite a few employers would prefer to take on men because they're the bread-winners and so you can get more out of them."

Wage rates vary from firm to firm and from district to district, and nearly all workers are on some kind of piece rate or bonus system negotiated at plant level. But the rates paid by most firms are pegged to the earnings levels established in the national agreement, which constitutes, in the words of Mr Peel, "the ground rules for the whole bargaining situation." As a result, piece rates generally have a built-in differential which ensures that men are able to earn at least £5 a week more than women who are operating identical or very similar machines within the same plant. It is openly admitted that this allowance is paid to men because they are men, and often means that a woman will earn a higher bonus than a man (by working harder) but take home less pay because her base rate is much less than his. The Equal Pay Act will certainly eliminate this kind of discrimination. But equal pay is not the only problem.

There are two sections of the industry which are currently close to equal pay. One is wool combing, which is usually done by women only. Mr Peel doesn't negotiate the woolcombers belong to the General and Municipal Workers' Union, but as he says, "it's a small section and we've got a much more complex problem" and in fact less than 10 per cent of the woolcombers are women.

The other section is weaving. Many male and female weavers are on equal pay because the fact that there's been a very hot on productivity and work study schemes and weaving is the one section in which work study methods have been extensively applied. Here payment is by results and not by sex and with certain provisos women are able to hold their own.

Some women working Northrop looms at Salts' mill work a "double shift" from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is allowed by the Factories Act, but the act does not allow women to work a night shift unless the employer is granted a special dispensation. Traditionally, weaving was always done by women, who have a higher degree of manual dexterity than men, but since the war increasingly sophisticated and expensive looms have

been introduced, and many of these are worked around the clock—by men.

Not that exclusion of women is inevitable. Paton and Baldwins have a plant in Scotland where women work a night shift, and this has proved quite satisfactory. Miss Gwen Rhodes, personnel manager at Salts, which employs over 1,200 production workers, is a keen enthusiast for equal pay. She says that there are many husbands and wives working together in the company, and that it would be quite possible for them to work a night shift together, or to alternate day and night shift work between them if they have young children at home. None of the women I spoke to at the mill wanted to work at night, but they pointed out that most men didn't fall over backwards to do it either.

But Mr Peel says that if an employer wants a dispensation for women to do night work he would first come to the union, and the union would turn it down. He would then have to apply to the Department of Employment. "Our national conference has decided that it is against women working nights," Mr Peel explains, "and I have to reflect the majority views of the people I represent. Their view is that it's not good for women to be floating around at all hours of the day and night, and a woman who out of enthusiasm takes on night work might well damage her health because she then has to go home and feed her family and do the housework."

Mr Peel sat as the union representative on the Government's recent inquiry into the hours of employment of women and young persons, and he told the committee that it is one thing for nurses or bus conductresses to work after 10 p.m., but many of the wool textile mills are not very congenial places to be in at that hour.

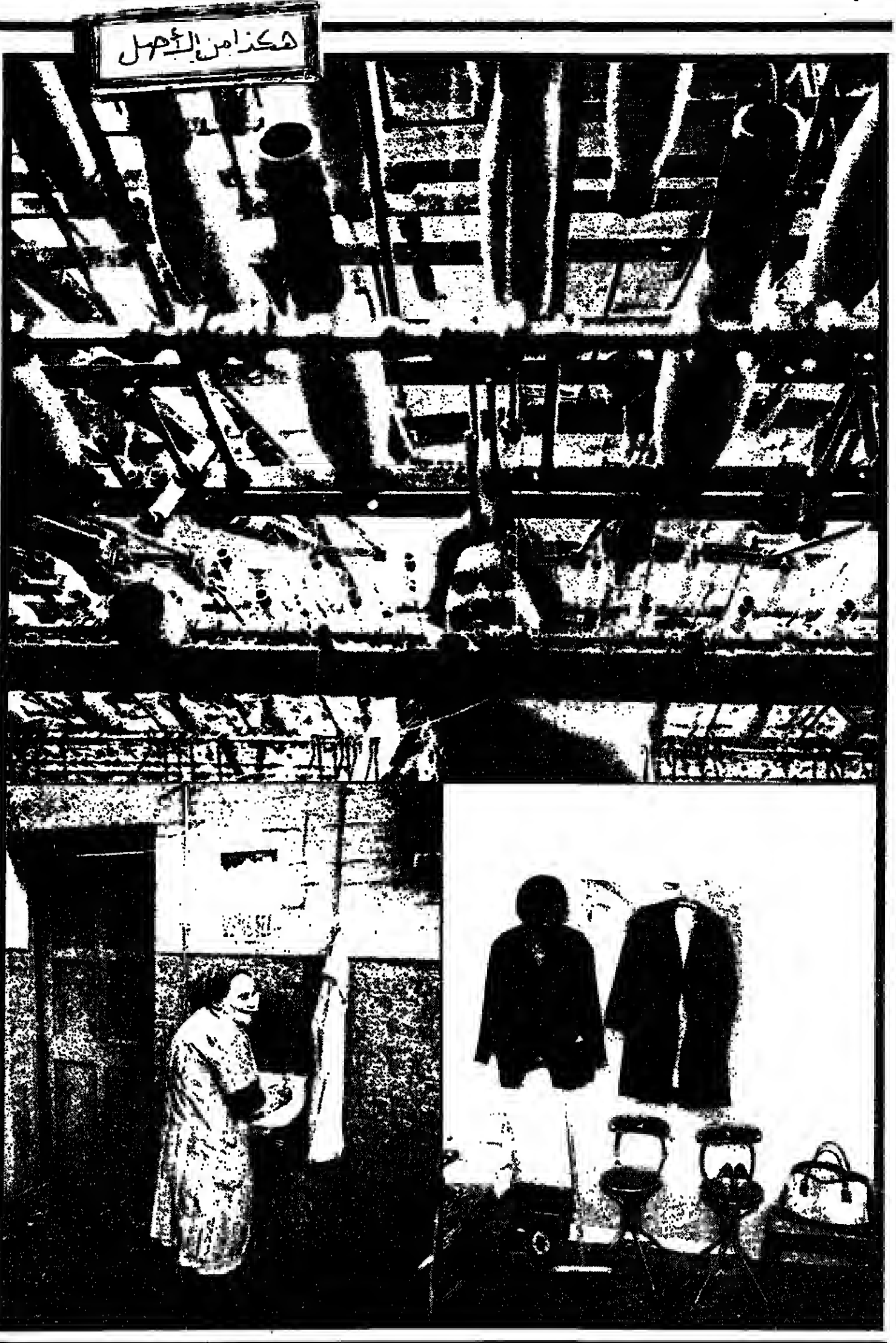
There are almost a thousand individual firms in the wool textile industry, many of them antiquated and run on paternalistic lines. A study by the National Economic Development Office projected that by 1975 there will be only 600, streamlined and highly productive, employing a total of 95,000 production workers. In fact, the labour force has already fallen to this level.

Last year, partly because of the economic recession and a cyclical depression in the industry, 10,000 workers were made redundant, many of them in their 40s and 50s who are unlikely ever to find employment in a mill again. Moreover, there are no special redundancy provisions in the industry, so that workers are entitled to no more than their statutory requirement: a week's pay for each year worked.

"Despite the fact that there's been a lot of redundancy," Eric Booth says, "things have gone quite smoothly." Jack Peel agrees. "There is a strong sense of loyalty in the industry," he says, "and we are determined not to do anything to hurt it. When profits go down, I'm as disappointed as anyone."

The way Mr Booth sees it, the industry will eventually be "leaner but much more viable." The way Mr Peel sees it, it will be "smaller with a more highly paid labour force." The way it seems to me is that most women will be squeezed out, and that tens of thousands of people who have worked in the industry at their lives will be left with nothing.

Jill Tweedie is on holiday.



THANK YOU, Mr Walker, for giving us a thousand miles of motorway by the end of next year. Thank you, also, for the two thousand miles we shall have by the "early" fifties. In the meantime, please would you do something about roads which are not motorways.

At the moment, most of the east-west routes across the country are clogged by slow-moving lorries which pursue each other, nose-to-tail along two-lane A roads at thirty miles an hour. When they reach a three-lane hill they overtake each other at five miles an hour carrying in their wake a stream of nail-biting, blasphemous motorists goaded by sheer frustration into taking the most appalling risks.

Your own Department, Mr Walker, thinks that quite a few lorry drivers still avoid the major trunk roads provided for them, preferring to go the pretty way or stop off at a long-loved transport café. We know that you and your colleagues are doing a lot of lengthy and expensive road improvement but really we need relief now. Do you think you could build a few "AGVs" only lay-bys on two-lane highways and issue some kind of directive encouraging lorry drivers to pull off the road occasionally and let the faster traffic through? Technically it shouldn't be a difficult or expensive operation and as a short-term measure it would save an awful lot of bad temper if not lives.

The Civic Trust thinks it is a good idea because "human safety must be paramount"; the only reason they did not mention it to you earlier was because they have been more concerned with long-term proposals.

It probably won't surprise you that the Road Haulage Association thinks it is a terrible idea because asking truck drivers to stop at intervals would play hell with their schedules. "Say you're going on holiday and you get to your hotel and they say: 'Sorry there isn't any food but the lorry got held up on the lay-by, what would you feel? You'd have passed the very lorry which was bringing your supper. It's a situation where you have to accept that either the lorries are late or the motorists in the queue behind have to control their impatience.'"

Your Department said it didn't really think it could do very much about building lay-bys: "Our main aim in the Department of the Environment is to build motorways and improve existing roads to cater for heavy lorries." Well, that's all we are asking. Not more of the vast widening programmes you are already doing which involve months of

CHECKOUT
edited by Elisabeth Dunn



single-lane traffic—just a bit of cheap, quick improvement.

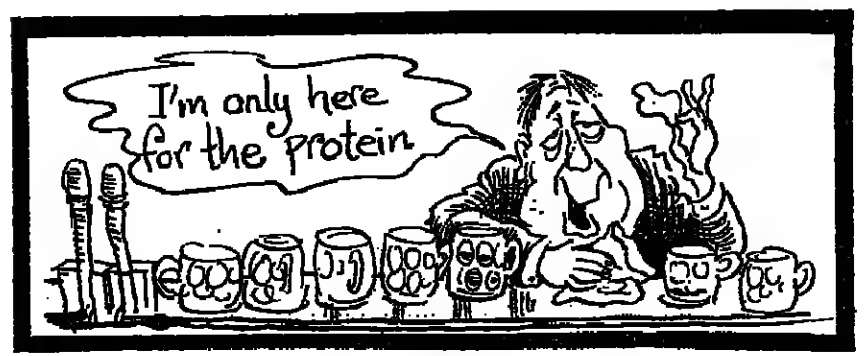
CHECKOUT recently bought (at vast expense) a tin of corned beef which when opened proved to be black and irrevocably reminiscent of the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic. Being on holiday and not in militant mood, Checkout did not report its findings to the local health inspector. Closer examination of the label, however, revealed that the corned beef was the "Produce of Bechuanaland." Students of African independence will recall that Bechuanaland became Botswana six years ago.

BBC Radio 4 runs a snappy children's programme called Humbug which last week, on Bank Holiday Monday, put up suggestions for "ten things to do today." You could, for instance, clean out your wardrobe and take the cast-offs to the Oxfam shop; find out how the Red Indians lived and then live like them for a day; or collect up all the non-returnable bottles you could find and send them back to the manufacturers. Which, environmentally speaking, is a splendid idea but hardly calculated to delight, say, Cadbury-Schweppes.

Irrespective of what you think about the principle of non-returnable bottles, it's a bit mischievous of the BBC to suggest this sort of thing," said a CS press officer. "It's completely irresponsible. Also ridiculous and impracticable to ask children to do this. How would they pack them? And the postal costs... It seems to me to be a lot of rubbish." As they say.

The press officer added that the company was very conscious of its responsibilities to the environment: "We gave £10,000 to the Keep Britain Tidy movement last year." Just carry on sending back the bottles, Humbug-listeners.

ON EACH tin of Long Life beer Allied Breweries say (somewhat ambiguously) that Long Life is the only beer "brewed specially for the can" which, you might think, would give it the edge over other brands of canned beer, involving possibly, an exclusive advanced brewing technique. Not so. Allied Breweries' spokesman said that Long Life was made in exactly the same way as other beers of the larger family and the only reason they claimed it was "brewed specially for the can" was because they didn't sell it in bottles. But then, even canned beer must have its mystique.



Golden Wonder crisps now claim to have six per cent added protein

HIGHLAND SHEEPSKIN RUGS		
45" x 20" approximate	£2.50	
45" x 30" approximate	£7.50	
Red Deer Skin, 55" x 45"	£7.50	
SHIPS IN BOTTLES		
and in full salt		
The Cat's Paw	£2.75	
The Fisherman's Boy	£10.50	
Giant Min IV upright bottle	£12.50	
Postage and packing free		
WILTONS QUALITY SCOTCH GIFTS		
80, Wilton Road, Carlisle, Lancashire, Scotland.		

Priorities in Ulster

Mr Heath and Mr Lynch will meet today against a growing party discord in Britain over policy on Northern Ireland. Mr Wilson's weekend statement is carefully worded, and somewhere in it will be found most of the reservations that are necessary in any comment on this appalling and complex situation. But there can be no doubt about the thrust of the statement: Mr Wilson is leading Labour away from further identification with the Heath-Maudling policies in Ulster.

In which direction? This is less clear. Mr Wilson is understandably annoyed that Parliament has not been recalled. He is unhappy that the Government is not accompanying its security measures with a new political initiative. And he finds himself unable to support the interim policy which preceded the most violent stage of the present IRA campaign.

Interim is a repugnant measure. It has only been used in Britain during the war. Mr Vorster once gleefully praised the Special Powers Act (under which internments are made) as the kind of measure he would like to have on the South African statute book. Yet both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic retain this distasteful power in their law. Mr Lynch contemplated using it again within the past year, and the Northern Ireland Government, with Whitehall's consent, has now done so.

Mr Wilson himself gave the explanation for the Special Powers Act when he was Prime Minister. He told Miss Bernadette Devlin on May 22, 1969, that he believed Stormont would have responded to his dislike of the Act that April (presumably by repealing it) but that under the circumstances then "not a government in the world would have gone on with what was proposed concerning special powers until they were assured there would be a period of law, order, peace, calm, and quiet." And what had caused the hardening of attitude which Mr Wilson endorsed in this way? Explosions which cut off water and electricity to parts of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is now suffering from something more serious than a partial disruption of its water supply. It has passed beyond the stage when policemen and soldiers were being stoned

and petrol-bombed; passed even the period when most of the shooting and bombing was directed at security forces. Ordinary people, Protestant and Catholic, are now being killed and injured quite indiscriminately. The Provisional IRA has made it clear that if people go near public buildings they risk their lives. The Sinn Féin spokesman in Dublin has said that the deaths of 17-month-old infants must be seen in the context of history.

There is room for argument as to whether all the men held for internment are justifiably held. It would be astonishing if they were (and that is the horrifying weakness of any detention without trial). But does Mr Wilson really believe that men whom Mr Joe Cahill has claimed as officers and volunteers in his units should be released? Is that likely to contribute to the political initiative that Mr Wilson and others rightly seek?

This is the heart of the dilemma facing Mr Heath and Mr Lynch. The Irish Prime Minister is right in believing that there can be no settlement in Northern Ireland unless measures to restore order are accompanied by a political initiative. But Mr Heath is also right in believing that a political initiative has no hope of success unless peace is restored. Indeed Mr Wilson's statement underlines this in one key area: "every pound spent on regional incentives daily becomes worth progressively less in economic development because of the growing disincentive through civil strife and murder."

That is true. But what is also true is that underpinning in Ulster is the one issue on which Mr Wilson's Government, like each preceding British Government, made no impact at all. Yet ask the average working-class Catholic—or Protestant—in Belfast or Londonderry what makes him most discontent with life, and the answer will not be about the Apprentice Boys or the Ancient Order of Hibernians. It will be about the fear of unemployment. Constitutional civilising in Northern Ireland is well worth examining. But Mr Wilson and others would be wise to emphasise that it has no hope of success unless there is a huge breakthrough to prosperity; and that this depends on an early end to gunfire and explosions.

Oil in a changing world

The North Sea could soon be witness to an historical turn about. The State-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), in bidding jointly with BP for an oil and gas concession in the British zone of the North Sea, stands ready to repay Britain for generations of exploitation of Middle Eastern resources by Western oil companies. It is a move that befits the first country in the Middle East to establish commercial production. If Iran wins the concession there is every chance that its terms will be considerably less generous than those granted to international oil companies operating over the years in the Middle East.

Iran's participation, taken with the effects of President Nixon's devaluation of the dollar and accompanying economic measures, could mean that a new round of negotiations between oil producers and companies are not too far away. The period of pricing stability which the oil companies believed they had bought through the Tehran and Tripoli agreements would thus fall short of the five years they had hoped for. The OPEC conference due to open in Beirut on September 22 will show the way the problems of local participation and the dollar are being viewed.

Producer countries would do well to move with caution in the field of participation. The OPEC conference held in Vienna last July called for a plan to study 20 per cent participation in the property and management of concession com-

panies. These countries know well from the negotiations over prices that they hold all the cards in the producing market. It will pay for them to remember that participation attempts by producing countries have been costly. The companies of the oil producers have been predictably short on expertise—probably as a result of deliberate foreign oil company policy. There have, over the years, been many combined operations between foreign and local oil companies. NIOC, Libya, and Algeria's Sonatrach have all sold crude oil abroad directly. Kuwait's National Petroleum Company has had some success in retailing refined products in Europe and Japan. But this has also meant exposure to the present problems of the market.

OPEC has had parity changes in mind for some time. At the Caracas conference of December 1970, it resolved that "in case of changes in the parity of money of major industrialised countries... posted or tax-reference prices should be adjusted." The question in Beirut will be who and how much. Oil prices are calculated on a dollar basis, but President Nixon's measures will affect only those paid in dollars—mainly by US companies. Sizeable sums could be involved. Middle East oil revenues were estimated at \$5,671.1 millions in 1970. And that was before the massive price increases. Even 1 per cent devaluation will be a large slice off.

A light on Blackpool Tower

The least controversial Trades Union Congress for years opens in Blackpool today. The most argumentative debate will be over the Industrial Relations Act, and specifically about registration. Though there will be much manoeuvring for public relations effect by various large unions, the Congress is unlikely to create new martyrs through expulsions. This is wise. The white-collar unions which feel they have to register in order to avert poaching by non-TUC unions took a long time to make up their minds to affiliate. A new schism would be a tragedy for trade unionism.

The issue about which trade unionists ought to be thinking seriously will not come up in a controversial form. There will be debates on unemployment, the economy, and wages, but the received wisdom is that any discussion on incomes policy must be kept in a low key. The serious talking about that, it is said, is going on among Government, CBI, TUC, and NEDU—and the less said publicly the more will happen. Mr Jones and Mr Scanlon, a nod and a wink add, are realists too, but to mention wage restraint in a hall where

they are present is as counter-productive as shouting four-letter words before an anti-protest commission.

The psychology behind this argument is well understood, but there is one fallacy in the reasoning. So far Mr Barber's mini-Budget has had depressingly little effect. Is there any hope of new industrial investment unless industry can foresee an expansion which will last? And can it last if the consumer boomlet when it comes sends wages spiralling upwards again? The most definite impression of trade union thinking that businessmen have at present comes from the engineering unions' huge national wage claim. It is, of course, a long way from being conceded, but as an encouragement to courageous investment decisions it leaves something to be desired. Would it be possible in Blackpool this week to raise even the faintest prospect that a deal on expansion, prices, and wages is feasible? Jobs for 900,000 unemployed people, many of them trade unionists, depend on the creation of a confidence in Britain's economic future which is still sadly absent.

A COUNTRY DIARY

LAKE DISTRICT: It may seem odd at first sight to write a Country Diary from a museum, but it is odd really when the museum is a folk museum of Lakeland life and industry, housed in the stable block of Abbot Hall at Kendal. This place has caught (but in no way dried up) the essence of the Lake Country and some of its past ways. Some of these ways, and the things that were made, have gone for ever. But some, like the turbines, the laundry machinery and the snuff, are still being made and exported from near here. Slate and stone have many uses, from Neolithic Langdale stone axes (surely the district's first export?) to the Lakeland stone on the Ross Group's new building at Grimsby. Brass pans, wooden bowls, horn (once used in windows, now as adornment), a Romano-British horseshoe, and its modern counterpart, all span hundreds of years. Many of the farm implements and their names are just the same even though blacksmiths and wheelwrights are few, and horse-drawn ploughs and farm carts are almost non-existent. Indeed, the whole place has an air of immediacy and reality. Why is this? It is no doubt partly the skill of its arrangement but, even more, because all these things have been made, used or worn by real people in their daily lives. Nowhere, however, is the sense of reality stronger than in the small bedroom at the top of the stairs with its high bed and wooden table, its patchwork curtains and hedspreed. A "straw boater" hangs behind the door, stiff collars and an empty bottle of "Jockey Club" scent lie on the dressing table. A heavy clock ticks slowly on the wall, and you could imagine that the owner has just got dressed, just gone out.

END J. WILSON.

EVERY political regime, using tactics ranging from the benign fiction of Plato's golden myths to the national brainwashing of Himmeler's big lie, to some extent justifies its existence—and conceals its mistakes—through recourse to deception.

Somewhere in between, repeated again and again to the Cambodian population, as well as to foreign visitors, lie the claims of the Phnom Penh government that last year's ousting of Prince Sihanouk, and the war that followed, were the result of spontaneous popular demonstrations.

The complete details of the moves leading to Sihanouk's going have long been closely guarded State secrets here. In a recent series of interviews, however, a number of high-ranking Cambodian officials for the first time consented, on the condition that their names be not revealed for the present, to discuss candidly the events leading up to the change in government and the beginning of the war.

The train of events recreated in the interviews, granted to me over the past month, is completely at variance with the official version of the events disseminated through the various propaganda organs of the Cambodian government. The interviews, nearly 18 months after the events, seem important not only in an historical perspective, but in the light of the government's pretensions that the Cambodian war was unavoidable, that Sihanouk had lost the confidence of his people—and that as a result the present regime is entitled to world-wide support.

According to these people, all of whom still hold high posts in Phnom Penh, Marshal Lon Nol, his deputy, Sirik Matak, and important members of the Cambodian high command and parliament conspired to overthrow Norodom Sihanouk by force of arms and to assassinate him, if necessary, as early as six months before the coup actually occurred and the war started.

The same figures, according to these high-placed sources, organised the "spontaneous" anti-Vietnamese demonstrations and the sackings of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong embassies in Phnom Penh.

They also organised subsequent anti-Sihanouk demonstrations, which failed to attract popular support and thus delayed the anti-Sihanouk group's timetable for ousting the Prince by 48 hours. On the eve of Sihanouk's eventual overthrow, on March 18, 1970, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak forces arrested scores of pro-Sihanouk officials and surrounded the National Assembly with tanks. Only then did the Cambodian parliament proceed to oust the Prince.

The crucial March demonstrations, and the final steps in Sihanouk's removal from power, were planned in a series of high-level clandestine meetings held in Phnom Penh in the early months of 1970. Several of them were held in the homes of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak; others occurred in moving cars to avoid detection by Sihanouk's secret police. Sihanouk himself was absent from the country at the time.

The result of the meetings, I was told, were personal orders issued by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak instructing the Minister



Republic Day demonstrations in Phnom Penh—the culmination of six months' change following Sihanouk's departure

Who tripped Sihanouk?

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, it was officially claimed, had lost the confidence of his people when he was deposed as Cambodian head of state last year: the present regime, by implication, deserves the world's support. But a remarkable series of interviews with highly-placed, and for the moment anonymous, figures in Phnom Penh reveals a very different pattern of conspiracy and intrigue—including a plan to assassinate the Prince, if necessary, as early as six months before the coup. T. D. ALLMAN here tells a story which remains a closely guarded secret inside the young Republic of Cambodia

of Education, at that time Cham Sokhum, to arrange anti-Vietcong demonstrations in the Communist-infiltrated province of Svay Rieng, and later in Phnom Penh itself. Svay Rieng officials apparently feared the consequences of the demonstrations, but went ahead with them when they were assured that they "would help Sihanouk in his efforts to put pressure on the Communists to withdraw," as one of my informants put it.

After the small demonstration on March 8 of students and teachers in Svay Rieng, larger demonstrations were ordered for Phnom Penh. Government sound trucks urged the students to demonstrate and officers of the government-sponsored Assembly of Youth arranged for students and teachers to assemble at the two Communist embassies.

However the actual sackings of the two embassies, which, together with Sihanouk's fall and a Cambodian ultimatum to the Communists, provided a casus belli for the war, was arranged through the Cambodian high command and actually carried out by squads of military police in plain clothes under the command of Lon Nol, Lon Nol's younger brother.

The demonstration in Phnom Penh on March 11 was just one part of a planned two-part

effort to oust the Prince. "We planned two demonstrations," one of my sources said, "one for the eleventh to create the crisis, the other on March 16 (1970) to provide the pretext for ousting Sihanouk."

Anti-Sihanouk tracts and anti-Vietnamese posters were prepared in advance at the Ministries of Information and Education. However the anti-Sihanouk demonstration on March 16 failed when pro-Sihanouk students surrounded the National Assembly. The Phnom Penh police, also pro-Sihanouk, that day arrested 20 hand-picked demonstrators carrying anti-Sihanouk tracts as they moved toward the Assembly. As a result, I was told, "it appeared for the moment we were foiled."

Inside the National Assembly that day, anti-Sihanouk deputies, including the acting president of the Assembly, in Thom (now Minister of Interior), were waiting for the demonstration to materialise in hope that it would stampede the parliament into ousting Sihanouk. Instead, "We began to be attacked for our anti-Sihanouk statements. The Assembly adjourned in confusion."

That night, as Phnom Penh newspapers carried head- lines saying "Coup d'état a-

ted," another high-ranking meeting was held at the home of Sisowath Sirik Matak. He summed up the situation when he said: "We have gone too far now to turn back."

The next day, with the approval of Lon Nol, the arrests began. Those arrested or forced from office included 20 high-ranking army officers, the governors of Phnom Penh and the surrounding Kandal province, and two members of the Cabinet. Only after Lon Nol's troops had taken over the civilian government of Phnom Penh, and tanks had surrounded the Assembly building, did the actual vote ousting Sihanouk take place.

The events of March 18 are alleged to be but the final stage of more than six months' efforts to depose Sihanouk which began shortly after the former chief of state, in an effort to put pressure on the Communists, named Lon Nol premier and commander-in-chief of the Cambodian armed forces in mid-1969.

According to the sources, the anti-Sihanouk faction was ready to oust Sihanouk in December 1969, during a national congress held in Phnom Penh. The sources said that 4,000 military police and soldiers, again under the command of Lon Nol, were ordered to pack the meeting, which Sihanouk used as sound- ing board for his programme. Seeking to be outmanoeuvred, Sihanouk let the Congress vote for Sirik Matak's policies rather than dissolve the government and call for new elections, as planned. Shortly afterwards Sihanouk left Phnom Penh for France, telling a confidant: "They are trying to make a Sukarno out of me."

New light is also shed on the role played by Lon Nol in the events leading up to Sihanouk's ousting. The premier absented himself from Phnom Penh during much of the crisis, and some observers have suspected that he, unlike Sirik Matak, was not wholeheartedly behind the move to remove the chief of state. However, my sources agreed that Lon Nol all along had manipulated events from afar. "We always acted with his approval, on his instructions. He ran the government—and our plans—by telephone from Paris."

Interestingly enough, my informants, in the course of half a dozen interviews, never named Sihanouk's foreign policy of maintaining good relations with the Vietnamese Communists, as a reason for ousting him.

"Frankly," said one of them, Sihanouk was anti-Communist as we were. Another said: "He had power too long. We wanted it. The only way to get at him was by attacking the Vietcong." Military orders, signed by Lon Nol, directed government troops to assassinate the chief of state if he returned to Cambodia. The main fear of the moment was that Sihanouk would return, rally the country to him, and hold elections, which he would win "because he was so popular with the peasants."

Perhaps the most striking elements of the anti-Sihanouk conspiracy—for such it seems to have been—were its total lack of spontaneity, and the plotters' easy sacrifice of good relations with the all-powerful Vietnamese Communists in the interests of domestic and political expediency.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The penalty of harshness

Sir,—In the USA the police carry guns and lethal night sticks, and they are renowned for the fact that they use both of them very frequently. Generally they are fully backed by their superiors if they kill or injure someone in pursuance of the "anything goes when you are dealing with criminals" policy. The courts pass sentences which can amount to hundreds of years, and if they could keep the prisoner alive that long he could serve his sentence in full. Men have spent decades in the death cells awaiting decisions as to whether they will be hanged, electrocuted, and the prison conditions are tough enough to satisfy the most reactionary reformer.

Yet in spite of all this (or because of it?) their crime statistics make those of Britain and the rest of Europe look like 2 kindergarten charge sheets. If 13,810 murders last year—and the murders of nine policemen in New York alone this year—do not prove that harsh penal and legal systems will not answer our problems, then for God's sake what does? Yours faithfully,

Joseph A. Phillips.
6 Abbey Road,
Birmingham.

A Sussex flonker's plea

Sir,—I was more than interested to see the coverage given to the game of dwile flouting as played in Gotherington (August 30); but it is really dwile flouting or dwile flonking? For some weeks now a controversy has been raging in the columns of our local (West Sussex) newspapers concerning the origins of this game following its playing locally, some correspondents claiming the game to have been invented in East Anglia in the 1850s, others suggesting that it was brought to the British Isles from Scandinavia by the Norsemen.

An analogy with Ulster

Sir,—Mr Paul Villiers (September 2) noting that when Mr Lynch opens his mouth Mr Heath accuses him of gross interference in British internal affairs, has missed the really legitimate analogy to the Heath-Lynch confrontation.

Four years ago the Prime Minister of another foreign country, which also borders on a territory legally ruled by Britain, ordered his armed, uniformed police to illegally enter the country, where today they still help oppress that British territory's majority group. I refer, of course, to Rhodesia.

Far from accusing South

Africa's Prime Minister of gross interference in British affairs, Mr Heath instead risked destroying the Commonwealth in order to offer Mr Vorster British weapons, in the most cordial way.

The lesson for Mr Lynch seems rather that, until by the Catholic minority in Ulster, after imprisonment of Protestant leaders without trial, should be supported by the invasion of Ulster by several thousand armed Eireann police. At the same time, Mr Lynch should make it clear that Eire is a bastion of Western Christian civilisation whose only aim is to help protect our Atlantic

shipping routes from Russian infiltration.

Mr Heath—if he is consistent, that is—will then offer Eire all the weapons she wants, call for increased trade and contact between Britain and Eire, and suggest Mr Lynch as an "honest broker" in the solving of the impasse between Britain and the rebel Catholic government in Ulster.

It's all so obvious: I am surprised the Conservative Party hasn't put forward this simple, proven solution before—Yours sincerely,

L. Clarke.
26 Kensington Gate,
London, W.8.

Formidable females

Sir,—Jinnie Rice is right when she states (September 2) that it is time for the female population to stand up and say they have had enough. There is, however, a slight divergence of our views when she exaggerates somewhat by inferring that all women are kind, humane, and understanding and that most men are megalomaniacs. It is an unfortunate fact that some women are in the forefront of the flogging and hanging brigade, to say

nothing of the banding out of white feathers. It was a woman who, at a meeting of my local Labour Party during the heyday of the GND, said: "If the Russians have got the Bomb, then we should have the Bomb and use it if necessary."

However, after putting the record straight, I come back to Jinnie Rice's views when she states that women can give a lead. Women do have the power, if they so desire, to end the present obscenities that fill our daily headlines—mass unemployment, Pakistani refugees, war in Vietnam, near-war in a province of the United Kingdom, Hell's Angels in Clacton, "sporting football crowds," and the exploitation of women themselves. They must, however, first get themselves organised, not in "women only" organisations but in the trade union movement and political field; they must shrug off the snide remarks and prejudices of their male colleagues.


Harry Kay.
8 Leburnham House,
Bradwell Avenue,
Dagenham, Essex.

Unsolicited offence

Sir,—The anti-porn brigade has recently expressed concern in the matter of unsolicited material of an offensive nature being sent through the post. This morning (August 31) I was the recipient of unsolicited material which I consider offensive. It purported to present "the positive aspect" of Christianity, and deplored the "moral slip" currently abroad. The covering letter was posted locally but the ultimate sponsors are the organisers of the "Nationwide Festival of Light" (Col. Orde Dobbie, Lord Longford, Malcolm Muggeridge, et al.). I regret to say that I received no righteous pleasure from reading their literature in the privacy of my own home.

In spite of their presuppositions, the members of the "Council of Reference" do not have the support of all the clergy in their censorious postures, and there are some of us who find their sexual hysteria a distasteful addition to our mail.

(Rev) Chris Gwilliam.
26 Birch Grove,
Risca, Mon.


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FRANK GRAHAM
6 Queen's Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

The call to confrontation

SIMON WINCHESTER
reports from Belfast Sunday

THE DAY after three Royal Highland Fusiliers were shot dead in a lane in the hills above Belfast last March, 3,000 angry shipyard workers paraded through the city centre, calling noisily for the overthrow of the Government and for the introduction of a policy of interment.

Nine days later a tired and beaten James Chichester-Clark took his leave of Stormont Castle for good and five months later the Special Powers Act regulations allowing for interment without trial were re-activated. Within half a year everything for which the bootmakers and shipwrights, the riveters and the riggers had asked that sunny Thursday afternoon had been granted.

The man who led that parade which so appalled an already dejected Stormont administration was a burly, marksman of about 5ft 10in, William "Bully" to his pals, "Bully" to the rest. He lives in a small terrace house in Conway Street, just off the Shankill Road, the Union Jacks and the Red Hand of Ulster flying proudly over his roof.

He considers the parade last spring a triumph for real democracy. "Our people

showed what they wanted and our elected representatives were forced to take notice. It frightened them a lot." Now, a month after the granting of the second of his demands, Billy Hull is arranging for another mass rally of Loyalist workers, equally angry, equally critical of present Government policies and, he is sure, likely to be equally successful.

Tomorrow afternoon at 3, 30,000 workers, so the organisers say, from the Harland's shipyard, from Short's missile plants and an armoured car factory, from Mackie's engineering works and from Gallagher's tobacco factory, are expected to converge on Victoria Park, close to the shipyards and conveniently sited (for jacking purposes) for HMS Maidstone, home of the internees, which is moored half a mile away.

The well-known leaders of Ulster Loyalist opinion will be there — William Craig, the Rev. Martin Smyth, probably the Shankill MP, Mr Desmond Boal, and with him maybe even Dr Paisley himself. The workers will be there in the name of the Loyalist Workers' Movement, a body which was formed only last week in the shipyard out of the sanctified ashes of its predecessor,

which was known as the Workers' Committee for the Defence of the Constitution.

Names of associations in Ulster have a habit of changing with the wind, and in essence this body is the same as its predecessor — professedly non-sectarian, unopinionated and, in the eyes of nearly every moderate voice in the North, immensely dangerous. The demands of the new body will surprise no one, and in Billy Hull's view they are far from excessive.

"The riots in the Catholic areas of town have been going on for far too long now," he says. "Our people — good, decent Ulster working people — are disgusted and frightened by what has been happening over these last nights and days. We feel the age of the rubber bullet is now over and we'll tell the Prime Minister and General Tuzo this when we see them tomorrow. It's lead bullets from now on.

"The army should be given the power immediately to order these gunmen and rioters to clear the streets, and if it doesn't happen in three minutes they should be allowed to open fire. A couple of confrontations like that should clear the problem up for good."

Mr Hull is still firmly convinced, as are so many of Ulster's Loyalists, of the necessity of a military rather than a political solution to the current crisis. Meeting today's suggestions in the papers that there may possibly be a political agreement hammered out at Chequers between Mr Heath and Mr Lynch tomorrow, and his face becomes flushed. "We will not allow any sell-out," he bellows. "We are British to the core, but we won't hesitate to take on even the British if they attempt to sell our country down the river. We are convinced no political solution is possible."

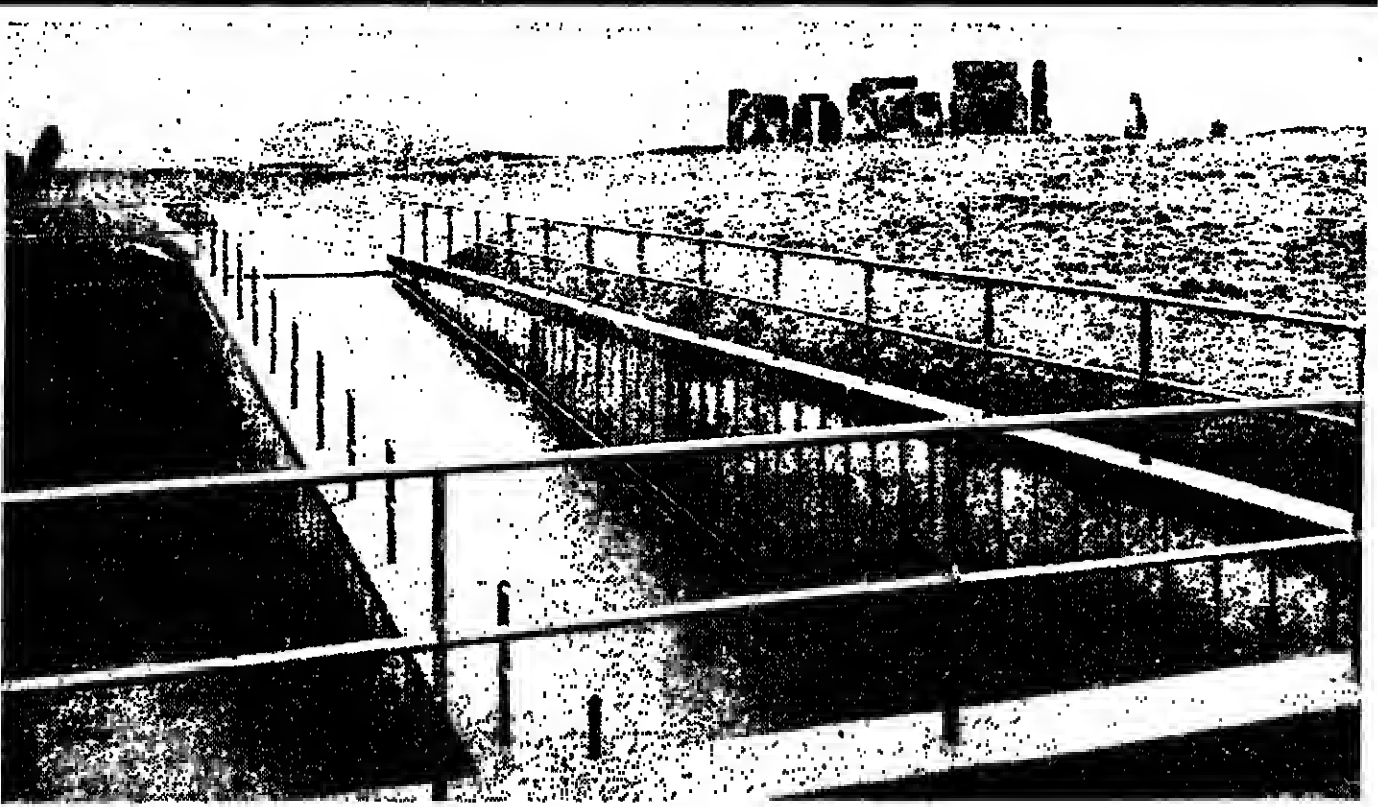
To underline the notion that he is British, Billy Hull and his supporters are to begin a boycott of Irish goods and Irish money this week, and he's already had thousands of posters urging the boycott printed over the weekend. He hopes the consumption of Kerrygold butter, Cadbury's chocolate (which is produced in the South under licence), Erin foods and even Guinness will slump drastically.

The boycott of Irish money which circulates as freely in Northern Ireland as British coin does in the South will, he naively hopes, bring the whole Dublin economy grind-

ing to a halt. Suggestions that all it will do is cause a coin shortage at the Bank of England impress him little. "It's a matter of principle. Gerry Fitt boycotts British goods and we'll boycott their stuff." He had no idea what he would do if a banknote issued by the Bank of Munster and Leinster turned up in his pay packet.

But while this sort of threat doesn't concern anyone very much, the meeting tomorrow in Victoria Park is causing some concern up at Stormont, where the events of last March are remembered bitterly. And still more important, tomorrow's meeting concerns many at army headquarters in Lisburn.

For almost two years Protestants have kept mercifully quiet. Last spring a Government had to be sacrificed to keep them quiet. But now there is little left to sacrifice. The reform programme will continue the Hunt Report will still be implemented. The options are more limited than ever before and the only options likely to appease the Ulster minority will, according to Bill Hull, inflame the Loyalist workers and the people they represent to a pitch which, he says, "no army in the world could ever contain."



Argument has revived about Stonehenge's origins. But what of its future? Richard Carr reports

Squaring the stone circle

mission from 5p to 10p in 1970. At the same time, however, the Ministry's income from Stonehenge has risen from £11,712 in 1960 to £68,829 last year.

The car park, cafeteria, bookstall, lavatories and underpass were, it is true, attempts to control a situation that was already getting out of hand, and at least the cafeteria, bookstall and lavatories are hidden from Stonehenge itself, though architecturally they are pretty abysmal. But they have not solved the problem. The car park, originally intended to take about 120 cars, is inadequate in peak holiday periods, so the Department of the Environment is

now negotiating with the National Trust for additional land nearby to serve as an overspill.

Similarly, the cafeteria has attracted rival enterprises which, with their gaudy wares and chiming bells sell ices and lollies just outside the official compound, while visitors often complain that the free car park is only a trick, and create angry scenes at the ticket barrier at the entrance to the underpass. To this, the department replies that charging for the car park too would only add to its administrative costs and difficulties. And as for the circle itself, well at least no more irresponsible damage

has been done, though it is difficult to keep the surrounding turf in good condition as it is so much underfoot by so many visitors.

So what is to be done? First, since Stonehenge pays for itself so well (quite apart from its value in attracting visitors from abroad), it deserves to have more money spent on it, not only to improve the present facilities and landscaping, but also — and this is even more important — to put all the cars, coaches, etc into an underground car park, as has been done in Cadogan Place. Then, all one would see (apart from the stones, of course) would be other people. Action should

also be taken, even if it does mean changing the law, to remove the commercial operators on the fringes of the compound, since they are another unwarranted intrusion.

But secondly, there may have to be even more drastic action — namely limiting the number of people who visit the stones. Unreasonable as this may seem, it does have a precedent, since it is the line taken by Clough Williams-Ellis at Portmeirion, where he closes the gates to his estate as soon as he considers the place is full, and the same action may soon have to be followed in many other places as well. Otherwise, in the end they will be ruined for us all.

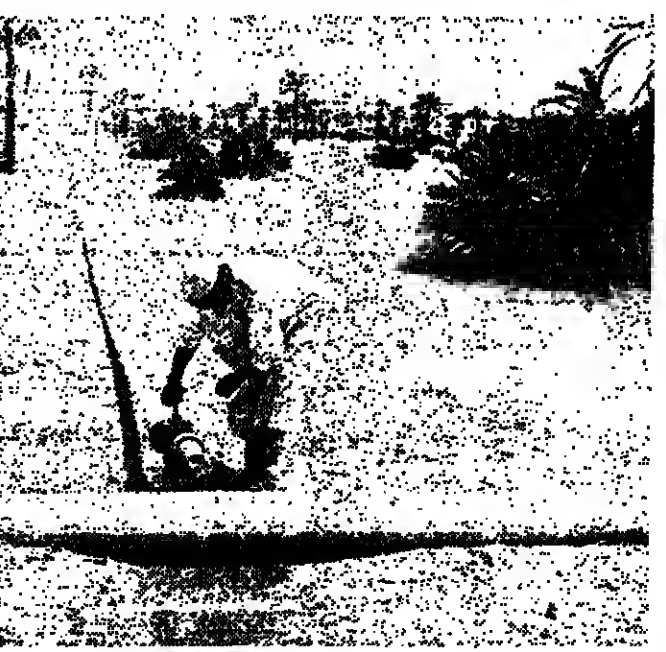
WHETHER it was a temple

or, as Professor Gerald Hawkins argued, a gigantic astronomical clock built some 5,000 years ago for measuring the movement of the sun and moon by people capable of bringing blueslone pillars all the way from the Preseli Mountain in Pembrokeshire, Stonehenge has so far retained its aura of mystery and loneliness. But now Mr G. A. Kellaway — in the current issue of "Nature" — challenges the Preseli theory, American computers probe the stone circle's secrets, and the attempt to cater for tourists threatens its whole mystique.

The problem of Stonehenge is, of course, the same as that of any other ancient monument or open space or stately home, which many people naturally (and quite rightly) want to see, but which can absorb only a limited number of visitors before its magic is lost. Even in 1915, when the forerunner of the Department of the Environment acquired Stonehenge, the circle's stones were fenced off and visitors were charged a shilling per head for admission.

But the wilderness of the place remained until well after the Second World War and it was not until 1968, after the stones had been daubed with paint on five occasions in the previous year, that Robert Mellish, then the Minister responsible for the monument, announced plans to increase its security by higher fencing while, at the same time, turning it into an official tourist attraction.

The result was a car park — no charge for admission, but you pay when you go through the underpass which leads to the monument itself — and a cafeteria, bookstall and lavatories hidden from Stonehenge itself, though architecturally they are pretty abysmal. But they have not solved the problem. The car park, originally intended to take about 120 cars, is inadequate in peak holiday periods, so the Department of the Environment is



Libya's invasion before Arab unity?

Gadafy's front-line fantasies

THE most conspicuous thing about the maps nailed up on planks outside the polling tents last week as Libyans fled in to vote on federation with Egypt and Syria was Libya's comfortable remoteness from the front line where Arab and Israeli meet.

Yet Tripoli was permeated with militancy and rhetorical determination to liberate the Palestinian homeland. Posters portrayed a muscular Gaddafi, representing the new strength of the Federation, springing into euphoric life. A cartoon in the official Government newspaper bitterly underlined the previous weakness of the Arabs with the message that there were no doctors in heal the Arab sickness.

The boom of naval cannonades and the roar of swooping aircraft punctuated Colonel Gaddafi's two-hour speech an Arab unity in the great struggle. Russian and Czech tanks threw up dust clouds around the saluting base, paratroopers in camouflage uniforms jogged past, frogmen, bravely wearing rubber suits in the humidity of late summer, marched along in a disciplined squad. And as if to underline the absence of any sober appraisal of the horrors of war, two small boys in army uniforms were approvingly lifted on to the dais to greet the distinguished guests.

Part of Gaddafi's strength is his style of swift and outspoken diplomacy. This achieved a rapid agreement on Federation but is now likely to start creating problems with his new partners. Can nations closer to the battle and more attached to peaceful solutions of the clash with Israel afford to be led from behind by Gaddafi? Can the Federation overcome the popular prejudices among Libyans for the Sudanese, who will join the Federation early next year, are wholly affectionate towards the

Egyptians? And Gaddafi's policy of military intervention in Jordan can hardly recommend itself to his new partners.

Another point of difference may not be serious. Although Gaddafi specialises in lively denunciations of communism springing from the Koran, he cannot be too unhappy about Syria's and Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union. At least he is quite content to supply Egypt with money to buy Soviet arms.

There could be a certain logic in the arrangement. Gaddafi may privately acknowledge that his army could never reach the front line in time for effective action. Therefore let the arms accumulate in Egypt while Libya remains as a fall-back position and a reserve for the Egyptians.

An Italian phrase springs to mind: Brutto il colonnello. How far are the Libyans an army of passive spectators watching their leader risking his neck as he hurries himself against the ramparts of international power politics and Zionism?

Is any national leader wholly realistic about the priorities of his people if in a two-hour speech he devotes only a passing reference, as Gaddafi did, to home affairs? This was to recognise the importance of rescuing 150,000 families living in tents or shacks and to cure 30,000 families threatened by tuberculosis — casualties of the royalist regime which his revolution ended a full two years ago. Meanwhile Libya is spending far more of its rich oil income on arms and subsidies to its allies than on health, housing, or education.

To some extent the other 11 officers in the Revolutionary Command Council are spectators applauding dutifully as

Gadafy succeeds in his international skirmishes.

But it is easy to plain that Gadafy would find it hard to survive any serious reversal to the Federation or the campaign to recover Palestinian territory. At that point a more reasonable voice, calling for limited compromise with the Arab world and increased efforts at social improvements at home, would be overwhelmingly persuasive.

This is not to underestimate Gadafy's appeal. He has turned Libya from a rubber-stamp nation in foreign affairs to one with an international voice and identity. He has led his nation through the joys of the experience of closing American and British bases, squeezing the international oil companies, expelling the Jews, and settling old colonialist scores by nrooting the Italian community. Mature and intelligent Libyans are unblinkered in diagnosing Gadafy's shortcomings but they firmly support his revolution.

At the same time there are plenty of ordinary Libyans who would prefer to hear about water and electricity supplies, jobs, and wages than about the struggle for the united Arabs.

Many of Gadafy's attitudes and slogans spring from the Nasserism of the early Fifties but they still make him an aptly aggressive leader for the first stages of a national revolution. As circumstances change he seems too rigid and well-defined a personality to change with them.

BIT quote

A PRINTING error in the article about BIT in Saturday's Guardian may have given a misleading impression. A member of BIT's staff should have been quoted as saying: "If anyone asks us for pot we say the phones are tapped — I think they probably are, anyway — and that canabls is still an illegal drug in this country."



Living on tick

Bernard Kaplan reports from Zurich, Sunday, on Switzerland's troubled economy

THE Swiss, everybody's ideal of a competent, self-sufficient people, are up to their Alps in trouble and uncertainty.

Switzerland has labour and inflation problems, and even a race problem. If that were not enough, the vaunted watch industry is not ticking as well as it used to. Either. Unbelievably, the main Swiss difficulty is an outdated grasp of economics. Which is strange for a nation which virtually invented money and treats banks like religious shrines. But recently the Swiss paid little attention to their economy. Now, however, they have found it necessary to amend the Constitution, to create a viable national economic policy.

Dr Edwin Stopper, head of Switzerland's Central Bank, said: "Hitherto, the people's thrift and diligence, together with the maintenance of labour peace, compensated for various sins of omission in economic policy. But these virtues are not a substitute for an effective economic policy when inflation bursts through."

Inflation has indeed burst through, the current rate of more than 7 per cent a year. In a country where, until a couple of years ago, it was never above an annual 2 per cent — one of the lowest inflationary rates in the world — the effect has been traumatic. One result is a wave of wildcat strikes, breaking a pattern of harmonious labour relations which had lasted 34 years. Another has been to bolster a new right-wing political movement, which preaches the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers, especially Spaniards and Italians.

In its first electoral outing a year ago, the National Action Movement Against Over-Foreignisation won 40 per cent of the votes in a referendum on expulsion. The movement's leader, James Schwarzenbach, is confident he will win the next time. And many people here agree.

Mild-mannered and bespectacled Schwarzenbach could only be a Swiss demagogue. But he makes up in his language for what he lacks in bearing. To him, the foreign workers are to blame not only for the spiralling cost of living but for about every contemporary development — "destroying Swiss traditions." His logic is not always sound, but the normally commonsensical Swiss listen with surprising attention.

But maybe it is not so surprising, in a tiny country of six million whose recent immigrants comprise 10 per cent of the population and more than a quarter of the labour force. Even the Swiss to whom Schwarzenbach is anathema candidly admit that so many new-

comers in so short a period has stretched the usual Swiss tolerance dangerously thin. "People are bewildered," said a Zurich businessman. "Things are changing so fast and upsetting the calm of our lives. High prices. Foreigners. Women voting. Why, the other day a bank here was arrested for embezzlement!"

In an attempt to deter Schwarzenbach's campaign the federal authorities have frozen the foreign labour force at existing levels. However, critics claim this has had the effect of making the anti-foreigner movement seem respectable.

Businessmen here are worried that Swiss exports may be pricing themselves out of world markets. Because of inflation, the Federal Government was reluctantly compelled to raise the parity value of Swiss money by 7 per cent when West Germany floated the mark last spring. Yet Switzerland is literally a nation which must export or die.

So acute is the situation that recently a major printing company moved its operations to France, where it believes it can produce more cheaply. But most disturbed of all is probably Switzerland's basic industry, watch-making. Swiss watchmakers are already losing ground to Japanese and Russian competition. Since this competition is strongest at the less expensive end of the market, every rise in labour or manufacturing costs hits the Swiss most.

"It's taboo to say so around here," confessed one Swiss, "but we no longer dominate the watch market. We control only about 40 per cent of it and the figure is going down steadily. A decade ago, we still possessed a virtual monopoly."

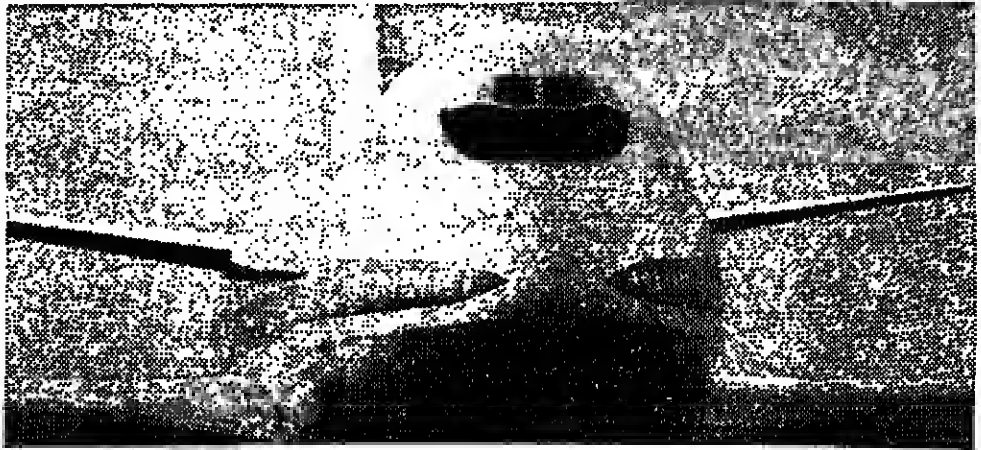
To meet what looks like becoming a fully fledged economic crisis, the Federal Government is trying to amend the Constitution to extend its powers on regulating the country's traditional laissez-faire economy. As things stand, the Government even lacks the authority to order detailed statistical investigations of economic and social phenomena. The amendment may not come before the Federal Parliament until the spring. After that, it must face a popular referendum.

The economic menace may even be bad enough to affect Switzerland's 350-year-old policy of political neutrality. The Swiss have nightmares about an enlarged Common Market, to which all of Western Europe except themselves may shortly belong, leaving them isolated.

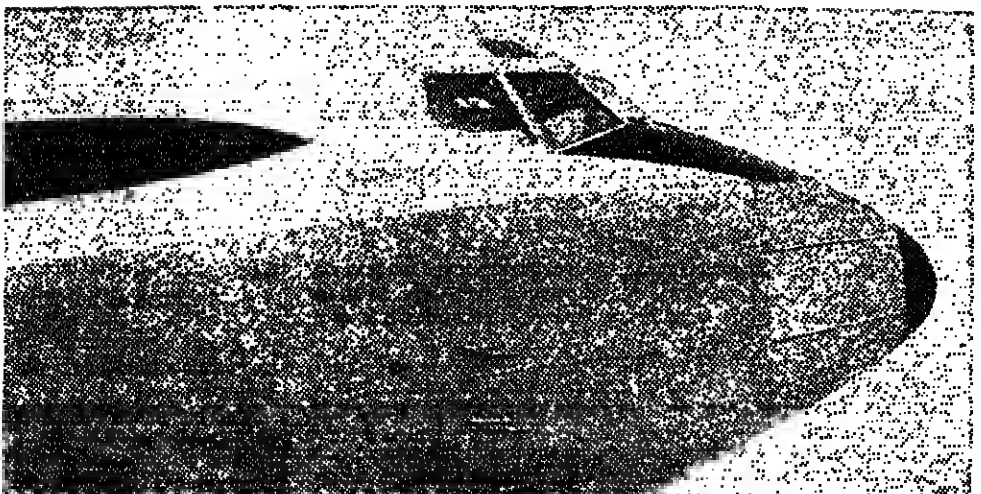
This has started serious talk of applying for full membership in the United Nations, an idea previously regarded as violating the principle of neutrality. —Newsday.

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Floating currencies: the Bank/Treasury split

DISAGREEMENT in Paris: disagreement, too, in London. There is a considerable argument—I don't want to dramatise by calling it a row, which would in any case be untrue—between the Bank of England and a very important faction in the Treasury about the currency crisis. The subject appears technical: how should we run international currencies? But in their extreme forms, the two arguments are simple enough for anyone.

According to extreme enthusiasts for fixed parities, we are drifting helplessly to what could be disaster. According to the real floating enthusiasts we would soon discover, if only we stopped talking about a crisis, that the problem has already largely solved itself. As one (non-Treasury) floating enthusiast put it to me: "The only crisis is the technological unemployment among officials of the International Monetary Fund."

As an academic argument, this is something of a chestnut: but it has now become

Not certain

This is not, of course, certain. As an official recently put it to me: "We have been pushed by the Americans into trying to agree a general realignment of currency values, and that was bound to mean a period of games theory." Games theory is the theory of gambits: if I make this move, how will he respond, and how will I respond to his response, and... In short, it would be naive to expect any visible progress, or even many cards on the table, at this stage of the game.

All the same, it would be

equally naive to suppose that by the end of this month there will be a game of poker in Washington at which everything will be settled. At the moment, we can't agree even the rules. The Americans want trade and defence payments brought into the betting; the French say there can't be a game at all unless the Americans are willing to put in their ante—a rise in the gold price; the Italians and the British tend to argue that whatever the game may be, we can only fix parities again when it has been played out, and all the chips—surpluses, trade policies, defence burdens and the rest—come to be cashed. It could, as I say, take a very long time to play out. So we are back to arguing about the present situation: disaster, or potential solution?

On the face of it, the traditionalists have some strong arguments. Here we are floating—the solution preached by believers in market forces, from Mr Enoch Powell and Professor Friedman leftwards. Yet so far

THE BANK OF ENGLAND, which runs currency markets, regards the present system of floating as a deplorable expedient: but some senior knights in the Treasury, which runs the economy, think that we may learn to love floating. Anthony Harris surveys the arguments.

from free markets, we have more exchange controls, two tier systems, Euroguilder bonds and the like than were ever needed to make fixed parities work. And even so, currency values move by whole cents overnight, forward cover is prohibitively costly, and the Bank of England is reduced to running interest rates in the interests of the international market rather than of the domestic economy. We have not gained, but lost our freedom: the game is not poker but beggar-my-neighbour.

Conclusions

The facts are true, but the conclusions are false. First, floating has solved the problem it was designed to solve: specu-

lation is virtually at a stop. Speculators can only bet as long as central bankers are prepared to behave like bookmakers. They can now only take views against each other, and the market represents the value of those views. The central banks are still quietly rigging the betting, but that is largely because the market value of a currency at the moment takes on a totally false importance when we are discussing fixing parities again in a matter of weeks. The market parity is likely to be taken as evidence (and has been so taken by officials of the OECD) of the kind of revaluation that is needed.

Real problems

This is not to say that all the problems of the present float are due to the fact that it is known to be temporary. Two very real problems have become evident. One is that the very large pool of international capital—mobile funds in search of good interest returns can quite swamp the

flows of currency on trade account. In these circumstances one either needs exchange controls on foreign investment—such as the Germans have practised since they started to float in May or else to run national interest rates in the light of international rather than internal conditions (or, as now in Britain, to do both).

And this leads to the second and more fundamental problem: since central banks must intervene in markets in some sense, it is very difficult to prevent them from pursuing policies which amount to beggar-my-neighbour. The IMF might have at least as much work policing floating markets as it has had in presiding over "fixed" parities (fixed, of course, until they move).

What is clear, it seems to me, is that the present state of affairs, where parities are neither fixed nor truly floating, combines the worst features of almost every imaginable system: and that the very large uncertainties involved over a very short-time horizon are particularly harmful. This is simply because the change of quite a small parity change—3 per cent or so—in a matter of weeks experience, at least of so, is important enough to move things like genuine floating today's prices and swap the attraction of interest rates. A would-be possible change a year seems worth finding out.

or so ahead could be accounted for by quite modern spreads and discounts in a market.

The present situation is a threat to trade—especially the shipping and commodity markets, which are highly price sensitive. A prolonged period of the present uncertainty would profit no one except the exchange banks which take a right view.

All bets off

At the moment, this threat is the strongest argument reaching a quick agreement but if that should prove impossible, there is another way of falling agreement at the meeting at the end of September. It would be decided by a vote: all parties would be allowed to float for a consistent period—a minimum of months, or preferably years—before the big confrontation. Such a declaration would give a long enough time to make a decision, because the change of quite a small parity change—3 per cent or so—in a matter of weeks experience, at least of so, is important enough to move things like genuine floating today's prices and swap the attraction of interest rates. A would-be possible change a year seems worth finding out.

Lloyd's turns loss into record profit of £35½M

Lloyd's of London has turned a £37 millions loss into a £35½ millions profit for the 1968 account which, under Lloyd's three-year system, closed at the end of last year. This represents a return of 5.33 per cent on the premium income of £668 millions.

Sir Henry Mance, the chairman of the Lloyd's Committee, says that the improvement was achieved thanks to better administration, the absence of major disasters and higher rates charged by Lloyd's under-

writers. Together these were sufficient to offset the effects of inflation. Lloyd's is made up of four main divisions: marine, non-marine, aviation and motor. All except the motor side came up with better profits. The marine side made a 6.85 per cent profit on the premium income of £236 millions but marine underwriters think it is not enough because there were no major casualties to pay for. One of the problems of marine insurance is that repair costs in the past few years have shot up far ahead of premiums charged. The motor underwriters reported a profit almost halved from 10.39 per cent to 5.66 per cent on the premium income; they expect that 1969 will be even worse.

Late payment

One of the difficulties facing Lloyd's underwriters is the late payment of premiums by brokers. A working party of underwriters and brokers has now been set up in an attempt to regulate credit terms and speed up the flow of cash. Neither the currency crisis nor the Uster situation will make much impact on Lloyd's. The association will be repaid by the Northern Ireland Government for losses arising out of the political situation. Any

change in the parity between dollar and sterling will not affect business in America but could of course mean lower profits in sterling terms.

Outlook for silver is gloomy

Sharps Pixley, the London bullion dealers, in their monthly report published over the weekend, say that if the recent trend in the price of silver indicates that silver can no longer hold any pretence as a currency and inflation hedge there is little inducement for speculators to invest in the metal.

The price of silver has slumped since the London Metal Exchange from 67p four weeks ago to touch 60.4p a troy ounce last week—its lowest level for nearly four years. The falling price is largely a result of heavy selling in the US caused by the large September open position over there and disillusionment that silver has failed to react to the currency crisis.

No bull market

Sharps say that while they do not look at present for a strong bull market in silver to develop in the immediate future, on the long term they believe that current levels will prove to be close to the lowest of this year or next.

On gold Sharps say that any talk of gold being outmoded in the world monetary systems is very premature. However, it is unlikely, they say, that the US will at this stage increase the price of gold in spite of the suggestion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to raise it to \$38 an ounce.

They add that the market is likely to remain very sensitive ahead of the IMF meeting in Washington next month.

Monetary unity talks

PROFESSOR SCHILLER, the West German Economics Minister, was in Rome yesterday to confer with Italian Premier Colombo and Treasury Minister Ferrari-Agradi.

The consultations are aimed at preparing the way for another attempt at securing Common Market unity over monetary policy.

His visit is seen as the first move in an Italian attempt to mediate between West Germany and France.

Italy has proposed a plan calling for a concerted fluctuation of the currencies of all six Common Market countries.

Solution

This solution, resulting in joint upward revaluations of European currencies, would be temporary. Italy also favours the eventual use of Special Drawing Rights as a new reserve currency, in place of the dollar.

Meanwhile, further bilateral talks are scheduled in Paris. French Finance Minister, Giscard d'Estaing, will review the international situation today with Italian Treasury Minister Ferrari-Agradi, and tomorrow with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Barber.

GEC raises its offer

General Electric has offered to buy the 49 per cent of First Electric Corp., of South Africa, that it does not already own.

GEC offered 58 South African cents cash and one share in L. H. Martinussen, a First Electric share. Figures given by GEC indicated the Martinussen shares could be valued at 125 cents or more.

GEC's bid tops a previous unsuccessful offer it made of 125 South African cents.

Invisible exports reach £540 M

The City of London contributed £540 millions in invisible earnings to the UK balance of payments last year according to a report by the Committee on Invisible Exports.

However, the year's total only represents a 5 per cent increase on 1969 although it is nearly double the amount earned in 1967 when the invisible earnings of the city's financial institutions were just £280 millions.

Insurance which includes Lloyd's of London and the City Insurance companies, many of which have very substantial interests in the US, contributed more invisible earnings than the rest of the City put together.

Earnings from this source went up from £257 millions in 1968 to £281 millions against just £150 millions in 1967. However, earnings of the cleared and City merchant banks actually fell last year from £110 millions to £96 millions. This must reflect the increasing number of developing countries, in Africa parti-

cularly, which have either nationalised or taken a major stake in their local bank.

Merchants contributed between £40 and £45 millions—the same as last year while invisible earnings from investment trusts, unit trusts, and pension funds totalled £45 millions, against £42 millions in 1969.

Brokerage accounted for a further £74 millions—£14 millions more than in 1969.

Maxwell to stand down?

Mr Robert Maxwell, the former chairman of Pergamon Press, will not be standing for re-election as director at the forthcoming annual meeting. It is understood he has decided to stand down from the board to avoid controversy at the meeting, scheduled to be held on September 30.

Companies in brief

Points from reports

Norwest Holst: Chairman Mr D. Lemare reports in general work load for current year is adequate, and he foresees a 1971-2 results should show improvement compared with last two years. On finance, he says board has made a number of decisions which will improve liquid position of group without recourse to a fund raising operation.

Gresham Investment Trust: The joint-chairmen, Mr P. Wreford and Mr M. Baring, say that they see no reason why the steady increase in profits achieved for the past eleven years should not continue. Group prospects for the medium term look bright, they add.

Howard Trucon Services: Chairman Mr E. Murray reports that company's new investment policy will, if utilised to its full, make a considerable contribution to profits in 1971-2. With continued success in export markets and in reducing labour problems and stoppages, "we should achieve

another satisfactory year in 1971-2."

Robert M. Douglas (Contractors): Volume of general construction work in hand is lower than same period last year, chairman, Mr R. Douglas reports but the supply and special units have a greater volume in hand and have made a satisfactory start to the year.

Business changes

Mr Harold Dykes has been appointed a director of Brynmawr Finance.

Hawker Siddeley Dynamics: Capt E. D. G. Lewin appointed managing director in place of Mr G. C. I. Gardiner who is leaving company by mutual agreement.

Industries: Mr Malcolm F. Gordon appointed as the company's first director of corporate planning.

Final results

Brassey: 14 pc making 24 pc (22,577,475). Pre-tax profit £142,794 (£135,002). Tax takes £37,650 (£35,000).

CITY COMMENT

BANKS

Short sight in the City

What is good for the economy is not always good for the banks. That much has emerged from the City reaction to the cut in the Bank rate from 6 per cent to 5 per cent. Clearing banks share tumbling down while hire purchase shares surge ahead.

This is the traditional pattern and such is the ingrained reaction of the Stock Exchange that it failed to notice that nowadays HP companies are often controlled by banks. They benefit from a cut in the Bank rate because the rate of interest on existing contracts is not changed while they pay less for the money they borrow.

Banks suffer because of the reverse gearing effect of their current accounts. These make up about two thirds of their resources and since both lending and deposit rates are reduced, the margins between the total cost of resources and total income from interest on advances is not as wide after a reduction in the rate.

During the 1960s a 1 per cent cut in Bank rate meant a cut of between 5 and 20 per cent in banking profits. But this is history, because the nature of

banking has changed dramatically in the past few years. The best evidence is that the 2 per cent cut in the Bank rate since early 1970 made no dent in profits.

Banks have been raising their charges well ahead of cost increases and will no doubt continue to do so in spite of periodic protests; with the Giro system near collapse customers will have to accept with a grimace.

Then the differential between the Bank rate and the interest charged for loans has been going up so that the actual return on loans about the same. But with the demand for loans less buoyant this process has probably gone as far as it can.

All the same, growth in domestic banking could slow down but this does not necessarily mean that profits will fall. The banks that have diversified most will do best.

National Westminster is the obvious candidate for the top position. Last year 15 per cent of its pre-tax profits came from two HP subsidiaries, Lombard Banking and North Central Finance. This time it will not only benefit from the better time for the HP business but also from the integration benefits of the two.

Barclays has little by way of HP but its expanding mortgage business to cushion it against domestic adversity. Barclaycard

rates, we gather, are not coming down.

Midland makes only 7 per cent of profits from Forward Trust, its HP subsidiary, and it also has little overseas. Lloyds gets only 4 per cent from HP but it has a growing international business.

Another point the market may have overlooked is that all the medium term fixed interest loans to the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation and the shipbuilding industry about which the banks made such a fuss because they were forced to charge low interest, may now turn out into good profits.

These loans currently amount to £1,300 millions and the banks had managed to push the interest rate on these to 7 per cent; they are likely to resist any attempt to bring them down again.

Overshadowing all this is the final Bank of England paper on competition and credit due any day now. It will, if the original green paper is substantially accepted, lead to greater liquidity for the bank because they will have to keep a lower liquidity ratio than the current 28 per cent.

On the other hand this may lead to an effective breakdown of the present cartel arrangements and lower interest rates. Until the paper comes out a wait-and-see attitude towards the shares seems the best course.

'Oppose talks with US'

A meeting of Japan's ruling Liberal-Democratic party has decided to oppose governmental talks on controls of textile shipments to the United States and import liberalisation of electronic computers under the next liberalisation programme.

The decision was reached at a meeting of the textile, commerce and industry and information industry committees. It said the Government should avoid working out an agreement on the textile issue at a time when the industry is faced with difficulties arising from President Nixon's dollar defence measures.

J.S. Ratcliffe Industries Ltd.

Extracts from the Chairman's statement at the Annual General Meeting in Rochdale on September 3rd 1971.

- Pre-Tax Group Profit for the year was £101,928. Net Profit was £59,428 compared with £76,956 for 1970.
- The pre-tax profit of Arthur Lord & Sons (Rochdale) Ltd. amounted to £42,638 compared with £39,085 for 1970.
- New plant and machinery costing £51,501 has been installed and is now in production. Unfortunately, industry suffered a set-back and the demand for our products was affected.
- A final dividend of 17½% is recommended, making a total of 22½% as before.
- The forward order book is in a very healthy state, including blanket orders from many customers. The high quality and service which we maintain is under the constant surveillance of our technical and design staff.
- The investment in Ratcliffe Iberica is dealt with at length in the Report and Accounts.
- The additional premises adjacent to our Norman Road Factory are almost ready for occupation. Despite difficult trading conditions we have maintained full-time working and the benefits of recent price increases should be felt in the current financial year.

DOUGLAS

Civil Engineering & Building Contractors

Salient points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. R. M. Douglas, O.B.E., for the year ended March 31, 1971.

- Turnover at £25,137,000 shows an increase of 14.2% and the Trading surplus at £1,572,313 shows an increase of 24%.
- A Final dividend of 15% is recommended on the Ordinary Shares making 20% for the year (1970-20%).
- The policy of wide diversification of interests has contributed in no small measure to the stability and progress of the Group and has proved to be a useful safeguard against difficulties arising in any particular sphere of activity.
- The volume of work in the industrial field has kept up to the level of the previous year. The volume of general construction work in hand is lower but the supply and specialist units have a greater volume of work in hand.
- The Group is in a relatively strong position with adequate liquid resources to take full advantage of any improvement in trading conditions and is well organised to play its full part in any expansion of the economy.
- Subject to unforeseen circumstances the Chairman has every confidence in the ability of the Group to ensure a steady rate of progress.

Robert M. Douglas (Contractors) Ltd.

The list of applications will be opened and closed on Wednesday, September 8, 1971.

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JOHN ARDILL

reports on a carpet kingdom

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or ceiling. A bright, circular light source is visible in the upper left corner, creating a strong glare. The image is heavily shadowed and grainy, with a prominent horizontal line running across the middle. The overall appearance is that of a low-quality, high-contrast scan of a physical document.

It wanted, he said: "better sewerage and greater attention to the frequent and regular removal

Where do you look for the truth about Halifax? The statistics are bewildering. The unemployment rate is 2.7 per cent, for Heaven's sake! That's rampant prosperity in the dole-quenched, economically stagnant North

Yorkshireman. The Yorkshire and Humberside Economic Planning Council's study of the area, published three years ago, blamed bad housing and working conditions and a poor environment, for the loss of population.

The borough council looks to a stabilised population and an improved environment. It has cleared 6,000 slums and has 3,500 to go, while another 3,500 are being modernised by the General Improvement Area procedure—the first hatch oversold by Gibbet Street. The council is providing industrial sites, and has seen the first start of new shopping centre completed, with two more stages scheduled. Halifax does not have the top ranking stores but the rest of the Valley population, to catch up, there are hopes of commercial improvement.

The best prospect for growth, it thought, was the South Halifax area and Brightness was later being the only area serving the suburban with a good population. It is this area which will be most from the big new Trans-Canada on to the Halifax area. It puts a house "close to the center of gravity of the whole way system of the North-England - with most of the population of the Lancashire industrial within an hour's drive, the motorway is coming next year, a lorry to Halifax carpets and a tory with the London or Bato and comfortable driving.

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HALIFAX TOWN

REPAINTING A LOWRY CANVAS

DEREK BROWN (left) on the traditional stubborn vitality of Halifax and JAMES NICHOLSON (right) on the challenging face of its future

HALIFAX really has no right to be a prosperous town. It depends heavily upon a traditional industry whose decline and downfall has been prophesied for generations, and the money-spinning consumer industries have largely passed it by.

It is a quarter of the size of the population of the town, and a considerable proportion of the remainder are economically unimaging items like machine tools, confectionery, biscuits, even reflecting "the world's ways".

et Halifax does thrive on a diverse and unfashionable products. It is a living touch to those who come to doubt the vitality of this industry. Stuck in the middle of a stagnant sea, the town has had for years a consistently low unemployment rate.

When all around are their jobs, the people of Halifax have stubbornly refused to work. The unemployment rate lurched over a cent this year in the of national economic 1969, but the August 2.7 per cent was 2.5 down on July: an impressive performance at a time when dole queues are lengthening.

The textile trade remains a dominant influence in this local economy. The 1969 record produced by the Department of Employment and Productivity (that in June, 1969, the rate for which figures are available) there was an 11.4 per cent of 57,422, 23,437 females. Under 13,000 were employed in textiles. Halifax

shows a proper Yorkshire bias towards wool, but perhaps because of its proximity to the Lancashire border, there is a small cotton industry, employing nearly 700: about a tenth of the number working in the woollen and worsted trades.

The employment figures are misleading in at least one aspect of the textile industry. They show less than 3,000 people working in the carpet trade, but fail to point out that nearly all of these worked for John Crossley and Sons, the biggest and arguably the most efficient carpet makers in the world.

Crossley's Dean Clough Mills cover more than 30 acres, and produce a vast range of domestic and commercial floor coverings. They also produce some remarkable statistics: 1,000 miles of wool yarn spun every hour; enough jute backing produced every week to three times round the world; plus cotton backing at the rate of 20,000 miles a week.

Crossley's got its first Queen's Award to Industry for exporting in 1968. Its second award will be announced today, also for exporting. The firm's exports in the five years have exactly doubled, from £1.3 million to £2.6 million.

The wool industry in Halifax, apart from carpets, seems to have an assured future. The town has never been a manufacturing centre, depending rather on spinning, because there is a restricted water supply in the hilly town. The smaller valley towns may continue to decline in manufacturing importance, but according to Mr Geoffrey Whitworth, chairman of the West Yorkshire Textile Federation, the number of wool firms now working in Halifax itself will have enough regular customers to keep them going in the foreseeable future.

The engineering industry, particularly machine tools, is the other mainstay of the town's prosperity. Halifax is second only to Coventry as a producing centre for machine tools, and although the industry employs a relatively low number of workers—about 3,500 according to the DEP breakdown of 1968—there is clearly a growth potential.

Halifax has a tradition of engineering skills, and more important a low wage rate compared to the other establishments.

lished engineering areas. The machine tool industry has become more specialised, but there is still a broad range of design and production expertise with products ranging from heavy boring machines to inexpensive educational tools for use in schools.

At one time, according to Mr C. Hardcastle, chairman of the Halifax branch of the Engineering Industries Association, any machine tool required in any machine shop could be bought from firms within 10 miles of Halifax. Those days may have disappeared with the growing sophistication of industry, but the skills remain.

"We have got the skill here and the wages are low enough to interest any manufacturer. We also have a good record of labour relations which no one else could match. We have had our minor troubles, but if any dispute has gone on for more than two days it has been looked on as a sort of major disaster," said Mr Hardcastle.

The third main manufacturing industry in Halifax, with more than 5,000 employees is food and drink. The drink part is largely accounted for by several small breweries, and the food part by Mere-

dith and Drew biscuits and Mackintosh's Toffee. The latter is now part of the Rowntree-Mackintosh confectionery group, based at York. Most Northern cities are regarded by those who do not know them simply as manufacturing units, with only the bare minimum of service trades. Halifax has more right than most to be called a producing town. Even so, more than 22,000 of its working people are employed outside the manufacturing industries.

Seven hundred of them work in the headquarters of the town's best known link with the rest of the country—the Halifax Building Society. The society, easily the highest in Britain, has built a computer centre to deal with its rapidly growing business. Nearly three million people now have accounts with the Halifax. Assets now total more than £2,000 million and it is a measure of the society's growth that the second £1,000 million was added in the last four and a half years.

A new headquarters building is taking shape in the city centre—an already impressive arrangement of vast girders and enormous concrete pillars which will be completed in 1972. The building will cost £5 million.

HALIFAX looks like an archetypal Northern mill town. At eight o'clock in the morning and five in the afternoon it is a Lowry canvas. Armies of stick figures swarm against a background of blackened factories, chimney stacks, and heaving moors of millstone grit.

As in many other Northern towns the canvas is being transformed inch by inch. Smoke is yielding to control. Polluted waterways are being slowly purified and areas of dereliction laboriously reclaimed. New houses, new schools and a new shopping precinct have gone up. Completion of the M62 will improve communications with the rest of the country. By next year a relief road to ease congestion on the A58 through the town centre will be open.

But there is a difference between what is going on in Halifax and what is happening in the other industrial towns of the North, while most of them seek to make themselves more attractive to new industry, Halifax is primarily concerned with what in the long run may be much more a matter of life and death. It is seeking to make itself more attractive to new people who already live there.

While unemployment or the threat of unemployment is a major and immediate preoccupation in other parts of the North, Halifax suffers less from a shortage of jobs than from people to fill them. Last summer unemployment in the town was only 1.5 per cent. Even this summer it has been running only at around 2.7 per cent—well below the national average. In all there are only 1,450 people out of work at the moment and most of these are hard core unemployed; people who, under any circumstances, might have difficulty in finding work for a variety of reasons. These figures are not however the simple index of prosperity they might appear.

For some years Halifax has suffered a measure of industrial decline, particularly in textiles—which has affected linked industries like engineering. But with this decline there has also been a decline of population and this has remained slightly ahead of the loss of jobs. What has been achieved to date has been in the face of difficulty. Recent completion of the first phase of the new shopping precinct by Taylor Woodrow in collaboration with the Corporation is an example.

Because of the proximity of big shops in Bradford and Huddersfield, Halifax has never developed as a really important shopping centre. It has no large department store for example. It is consequently difficult to make schemes like this latest development viable.

Its location, industrial structure and environment have made Halifax unattractive to new industry in the past. Even so the town's three industrial estates are now almost fully developed. At Holmfield industrial estate, which with 30 acres of land is the biggest, CIBA have recently developed an 11 acre site with a new foundry plant factory.

The housing problem in Halifax is virtually solved. The private sector are building 200 houses a year and in the public sector the town's house building programme will be completed in three years. The same sort of vigour has been demonstrated in the field of education. In the current financial year £171,000 is being spent on new buildings and extensions for primary, secondary, and grammar schools. Next year the figure is likely to jump to £300,000.

Like many other places in the West Riding of Yorkshire the problems of pollution, dereliction, and urban decay in Halifax tend to be much worse than official figures based on narrow definitions suggest. Yet it is in these areas where some of the most important steps are being taken.

Smoke control is expected to be total within three years. A £2.5-million plant for turning domestic and industrial effluent into pure water and nitrates for agriculture has recently been completed.

Even more important visually is the recently launched programme of cleaning up the rows of blackened dwellings which give Halifax, like other Yorkshire towns, their notorious Coronation Street image.

Whether the planners are right in thinking this strategy of renewal will make Halifax sufficiently attractive to halt the decline of population, perhaps attract newcomers and eventually new business activity, remains to be seen. The question is difficult and the problem profound. But one thing is already clear. Clean stone, clean air, and clean grass cushions the visual shock which visitors to Halifax were so apt to experience.

See you later—



in Halifax

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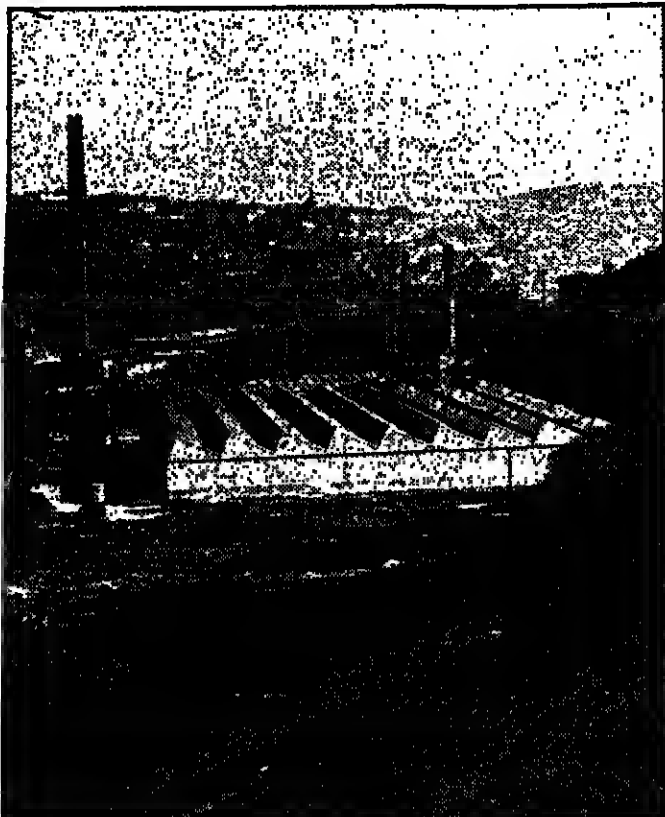
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 263 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a meeting of the shareholders of the above-named company will be held at the registered office of the company, 40, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2, on Thursday, the 25th day of September, 1971, at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed alteration of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, as set out in the draft resolution submitted to the company by the directors, and for the purpose of approving the proposed alteration of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, as set out in the draft resolution submitted to the company by the directors.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 263 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a meeting of the shareholders of the above-named company will be held at the registered office of the company, 40, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2, on Thursday, the 25th day of September, 1971, at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed alteration of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, as set out in the draft resolution submitted to the company by the directors, and for the purpose of approving the proposed alteration of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, as set out in the draft resolution submitted to the company by the directors.

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Stormy exit for Ilie Nastase in US Open

From DAVID GRAY: Forest Hills, September 5

The volleyer took the first set from the base-liner and held the initiative for a long time in the second, but as the match dragged on into the evening, Miss Eise began to find it more and more difficult to win her own service.

She did not break Miss Evert, but she did break the spirit of the 19-year-old American. Evert was not the only player to serve until at last she reached 40-0 and 40-0. There Miss Evert surrendered. She did not even bother to chase the volley which she was about to return. She gave the points for victory. The older player served a fairly safe kind of serve, an overhand serve, and she played with Evert striking a downward beat with a backhand and down the line. The point about potentially great ones — is that in moments of desperation, they are not. Evert's serve was not one of that particular exchange after which she was known to go down the line with coolness and restfulness. Evert's serve was not one of Miss Evert, who never finds it difficult to teach her lawn tennis pupils. Evert's serve was not one of said: "At 40-0 I think she should stop at everything into it. She should have tried to hit it steadily."

Throughout the crisis the little girl continued to hit it straight winners. Perfectly placed, she

Throughout the crisis the little girl continued to hit outright winners. Perfectly poised, she filled every corner of the court. The crowd alternated between pin-stillness and great cheers, all of them, it seemed, in favour of Miss Evert. As soon as it was clear that she had a chance of winning — and of winning

[illegible]

Brent, Australia; T-5, G-3, G-1, M
Pille, Yugoslavia; head A. Noely, US
T-6, G-6, G-3; J. Lanchy, Denmark
head E. van Oulen, US; G-3, G-6, G-3
G-2, N. Holmes, US; head J. Chmry,
Canada; G-0, G-2, G-3; M. Holcnek,
Czechoslovakia; head D. Ralston, US
G-2, T-6, G-6, G-4; T. Leonard, US
head Z. Franculovic, Yugoslavia; J-4
G-7, G-3, T-5, T-5; S. Smith, UK
head B. Fairlie, NZ; G-3, T-6, G-2
N. Connors, US; head S. Matthews,

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Second Round
 C. Evert (US) beat M. A. Elze (AUS) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; Mrs. B. J. King (US) beat H. Gormley (Australia) 6-1, 6-2; Mrs. N. Richey Ginter (US) beat E. Subirats (Mexico) 6-3, 6-1; F. Durr (France) beat L. Liem (Indonesia) 6-0, 6-2; L. Mead (Australia) beat R. Downes (US) 6-1, 6-2; W. Ghichis (Australia) beat J. Tenney (US) 7-5, 6-3; J. Cooper (US) beat C. Sandberg (Sweden) 6-4, 6-1.

Warboys

back on his feet. After an early attempt to bulldoze his way through, Warboys was forced into a crouching position, rolling on the baseloe where his backhand came under fierce attack and finally broke down.

Panton (Middx) 1-6, 6-2, 6-1; M. J. Lloyd
Farrell (Lancs) and J. M. Lloyd
Essex; beat G. Goodswell and M. B. Lloyd
Weyman (Surrey) 8-8, 6-2, 6-4; Miss
S. Barker (Devon) and Miss N. Salter
Devon; beat G. L. Coles (Middx) and
D. Y. Staniszewski (Surrey) 6-2, 7-5;
R. A. Leslie and Miss Panton (Middx)
beat J. R. Smith (Oxon) and Miss
V. J. Lelper (Essex) 3-6, 6-5, 6-1.

SSWORD 13,030
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24. Company, had or otherwise, in Spain (7).
25. Representative, or existing within its means (7)
26. Leap over (5).
27. Bird making captious charge (9).

DOWN

1. Round and round it goes, up and down (8, 9).
2. White fish turning to red when treated (8).
3. A cereal or nut (3).
4. Making a splinter about fifty
- finish up being pleasant (8).

3. Look now and then in the children's playground (6).
6. An embezzler having to clear up mess (8).
7. A holy man bending and stiffening (6).
8. Preparatory performance can make readers less rash (3, 10).

15. Gold ring record held by woman clock-maker (9).
17. Place in Surrey manufacturing iron tubs (81).
18. In a limited time nine mangle (81).
20. Painters wipe up for the treasurer (6).

21. I sent back to an establish-
ment he's engaged (6)
23 A Greek character gning
inside remains imitollve (3).
Solution tomorrow

ORD--PAGE 14

Throughout the crisis the little girl continued to hit outright winners. Perfectly plosed, she filled every corner of the court. The crowd alternated between

pin-stillness and great cheers, all of them, it seemed, in favour of Miss Evert. As soon as it was announced that she had a chance of winning, all of winning dramatically — New Yorkers gathered her up into its enormous sentimental bosom. They were really incredible, these Miss Eisel eddy. They have never played in front of spectators like this. They have cheered when I served faults."

Fraser 6-2, 6-3; J. Philie (Chile) beat R. S. Takai (Japan) 6-3, 6-3; R. Case (USA) beat T. Sakai (Japan) 6-3, 6-3; R. Moore (Australia) beat B. Taylor (GB) 6-3, 6-3; R. Taylor (GB) beat M. Vazquez (Argentina) 6-2, 6-1, 6-1; W. Bowrey (Australia) beat R. Moore (Australia) 6-3, 6-3; R. Moore (Australia) beat A. Neely (USA) 7-6, 7-6, 6-3; J. Leachey (Germany) beat R. Case (USA) 6-3, 6-3; G. N. Holmes (USA) beat J. Chappin (Canada) 6-0, 6-3, 6-3; M. Holcsek (Czechoslovakia) beat D. Ralston (USA) 6-3, 6-3; R. Case (USA) beat T. Franulovic (Yugoslavia) 4-6, 6-7, 6-3; T. S. 7-6, 5-3; Smith (USA) beat J. Falcato (USA) 6-3, 6-3; P. Gomez (USA) beat S. Mathew (ICB) 7-6, 7-6, 6-0.

WOMEN'S 6 SINGLES: Second Round
 C. Evert (USA) beat M. A. Alkire (USA) 6-0, 7-5; B. King (USA) beat H. Gourlay (Australia) 6-0, 6-2; Mrs N. Richey (Gunter) (USA) beat E. Subirats (Mexico) 6-3, 6-1; F. Durr (France) beat L. Liem (Indonesia) 6-0, 6-2; L. Hunt (Australia) beat R. Devries (USA) 6-1, 6-2; W. Glickstein (Australia) beat J. Tenney (USA) 7-5, 6-4; L. Osipent (USA) beat G. Sandberg (Sweden) 6-4, 6-1.

Warboys was able to take the pressures much more easily. He was always the livelier whereas Warboys was inclined to hang back on his feet. After an early attempt to bulldoze his way through, Warboys was forced into controlling on the baseloe where his backhand came under fierce attack.

FINALS: C. J. Mottram (Surrey)
 beat S. A. Warboys (Essex) 6-3, 7-5
 Miss G. Coles (Middlesex) beat Miss C. M.
 Pantom (Middlesex) 1-6, 6-2, 6-1; M. Joyce
 Farrell (Lancs) and J. M. Lloyd (Essex)
 beat G. Goodeswell and M. D. D.
 Wayman (Surrey) 8-6, 6-2, 6-4; Miss
 S. Barker (Devon) and Miss N. Salter
 (Devon) beat G. L. Coles (Middlesex) and
 R. Y. Stanislawski (Surrey) 6-2, 7-5
 D. A. Leslie and Miss Pantom (Middlesex)

SSWORD 13,030

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24. Company, had or otherwise, in Spain (71).
25. Representative, or existing within its means (71)
26. Lean over (15).
27. Road making, cautious, change

DOWN

1. Round and round it goes, up and down (8, 9).
2. White fish turning to red when treated (8).
2. A camel on a rug (13).

3. A cereal or nut (3).
4. Making a splinter about fifty
finish up being pleasant (8).
5. Look now and then in the
children's playground (6).
6. An embezzler having to clear
up mess (9).
7. A holy man bending and
distressing (4).

8. Preparatory performance can make readers less rash (3, 10).
15. Gold ring record held by woman clock-maker (9).
17. Place in Surrey manufacturing iron tubs (81).
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20. Painters wipe up for the treasurer (5).
21. I sent back to an establishment he's engaged (5)
22. A Greek character going inside remains immitolive (3).
Solution tomorrow

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